

HICKMAN • TOCCHINI • EPTING • KITSON



TM

VOL
2

MARVEL

"THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND YEARS AGO, THE SUPREME INTELLIGENCE HAD SEEN A VISION OF HIS DEATH. AN END OF HIS OWN MAKING. TO ESCAPE THIS, HE HAD HIS ACCUSERS BURN OVER ONE HUNDRED WORLDS, JUST TO BE SURE. AND NOW, HE WILL DO THE SAME TO OURS..."

It's a new era for the FF — in every way imaginable! Black Bolt has returned from seeming death; Dr. Doom, the Wizard, the Mad Thinker and Diablo have joined the Future Foundation; and four alternate-reality Reed Richardses are scheming to ignite war among the fabled Four Cities. But all that could be moot because the Kree Supreme Intelligence has designs on Earth's destruction — the resolution of a power play 300,000 years in the making. Now, the realm of the Inhumans, Attilan, has appeared above the planet — a harbinger not only of its ruler's return but also of an epic conflagration with the High Evolutionary.



"THE RETURN OF BLACK BOLT...PLAYS OUT IN A FLURRY OF PLOT TWISTS THAT ONLY PROMISE TO CONTINUE THE MULTI-LAYERED, THOUGHTFUL, EXPANSIVE STORY THAT JONATHAN HICKMAN HAS BEEN CRAFTING."

— Joshua Yehl, *IGN.com*

T

MARVEL

Collecting *FF* #6-11 — written by Jonathan Hickman; and illustrated by Steve Epting, Barry Kitson and Greg Tocchini.

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**VOL
2**

MARVEL

HICKMAN

•

TOCCHINI

•

MOUNTS

MARVEL

6



30/12/11
MOUNTS
LANNING

VAL INADVERTENTLY RELEASED THE LAST FOUR REEDS OF THE INTERDIMENSIONAL COUNCIL INTO OUR UNIVERSE. IN ORDER TO RETURN TO THEIR OWN DIMENSION, THE REEDS INTEND TO BRING ABOUT THE WAR OF THE FOUR CITIES. MONTHS AGO, HAVING TAKEN OVER THE KREE EMPIRE, BLACK BOLT, KING OF THE INHUMANS, PERISHED IN BATTLE WITH THE SHI'AR RULER VULCAN. NONETHELESS, ATILAN, CITADEL OF THE INHUMANS, HAS APPEARED ABOVE EARTH-WITH BLACK BOLT SITTING UPON THE THRONE.



REED RICHARDS,
MISTER FANTASTIC



SUSAN RICHARDS,
THE INVISIBLE WOMAN



BENJAMIN GRIMM,
THE THING



SPIDER-MAN



VALERIA RICHARDS



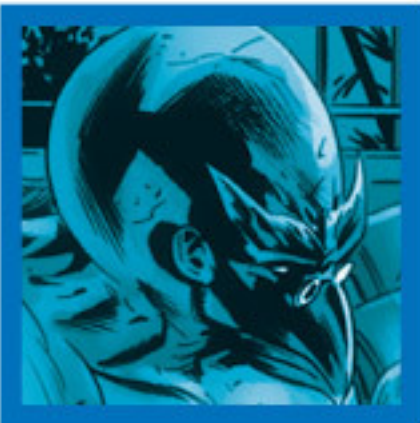
FRANKLIN RICHARDS



NATHANIEL RICHARDS



DOCTOR DOOM



DRAGON MAN



WU & VIL



MIK, KOR & TURG



TONG



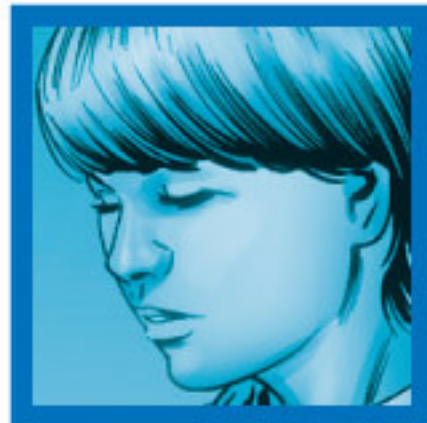
LEECH



ARTIE



BENTLEY



ALEX POWER

WRITER: JONATHAN HICKMAN

ARTIST: GREG TOCCHINI

COLOR ARTIST: PAUL MOUNTS

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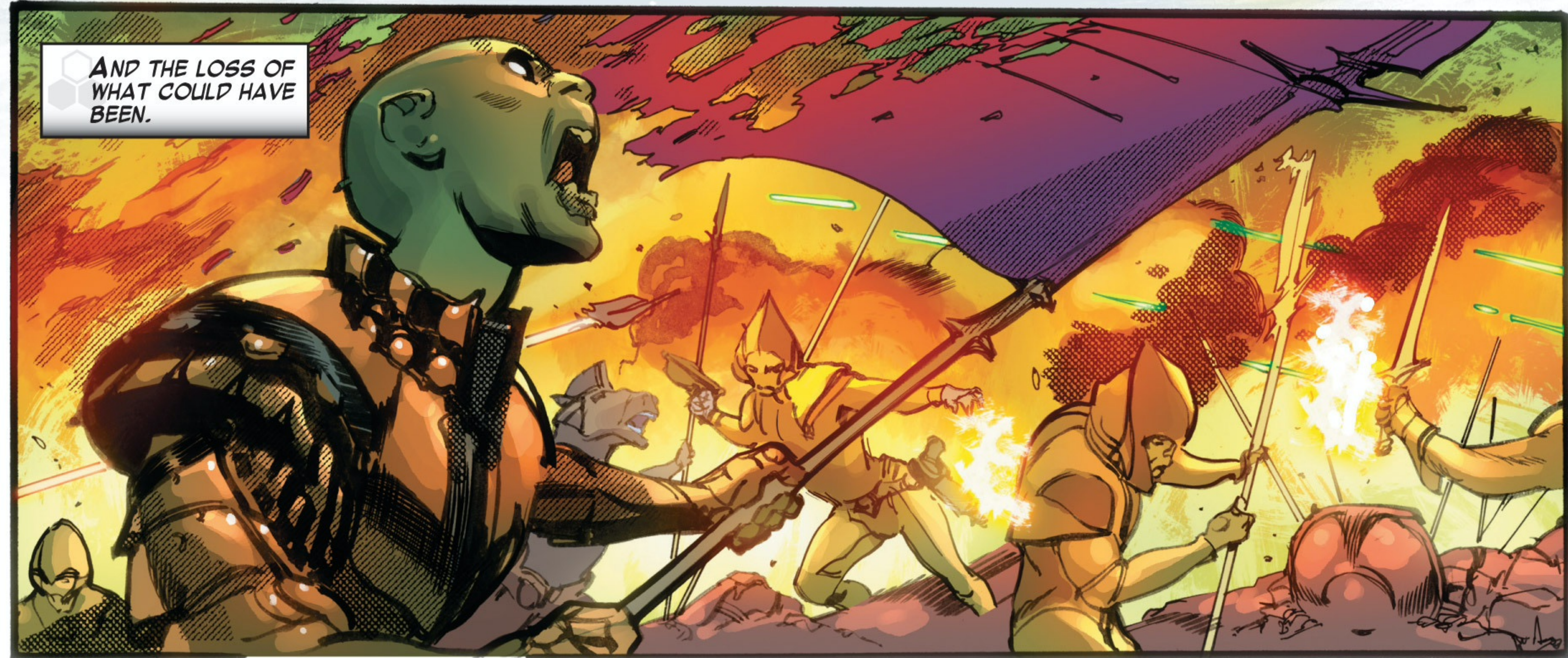
MONTHS AGO...



THIS WAS THE
ONLY WAY IT
COULD END...



IN BLOOD
AND ASH...



AND THE LOSS OF
WHAT COULD HAVE
BEEN.

IT WAS A
BATTLE BETWEEN
TWO EMPIRES...

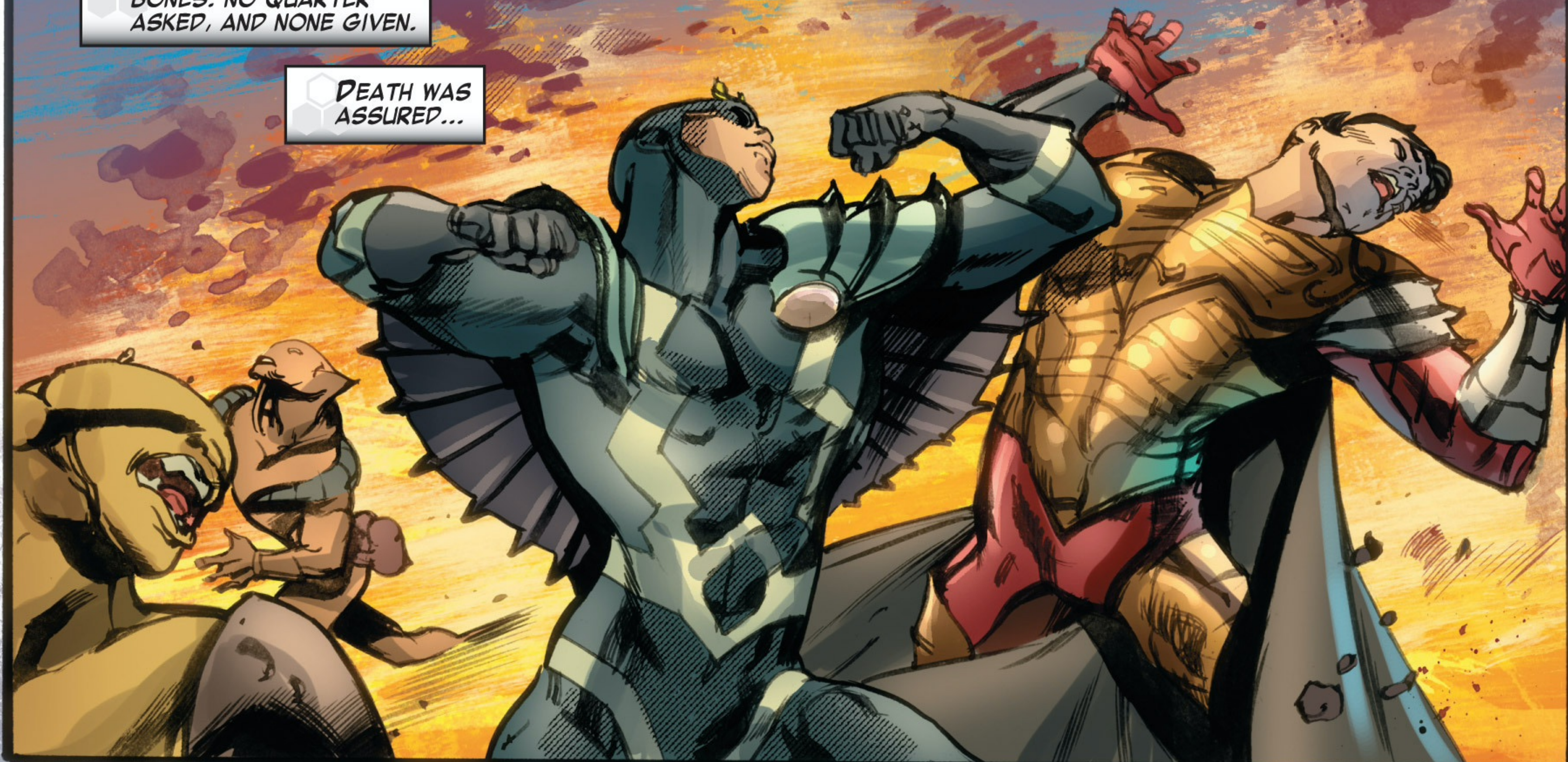


IT WAS A
WAR OF KINGS.

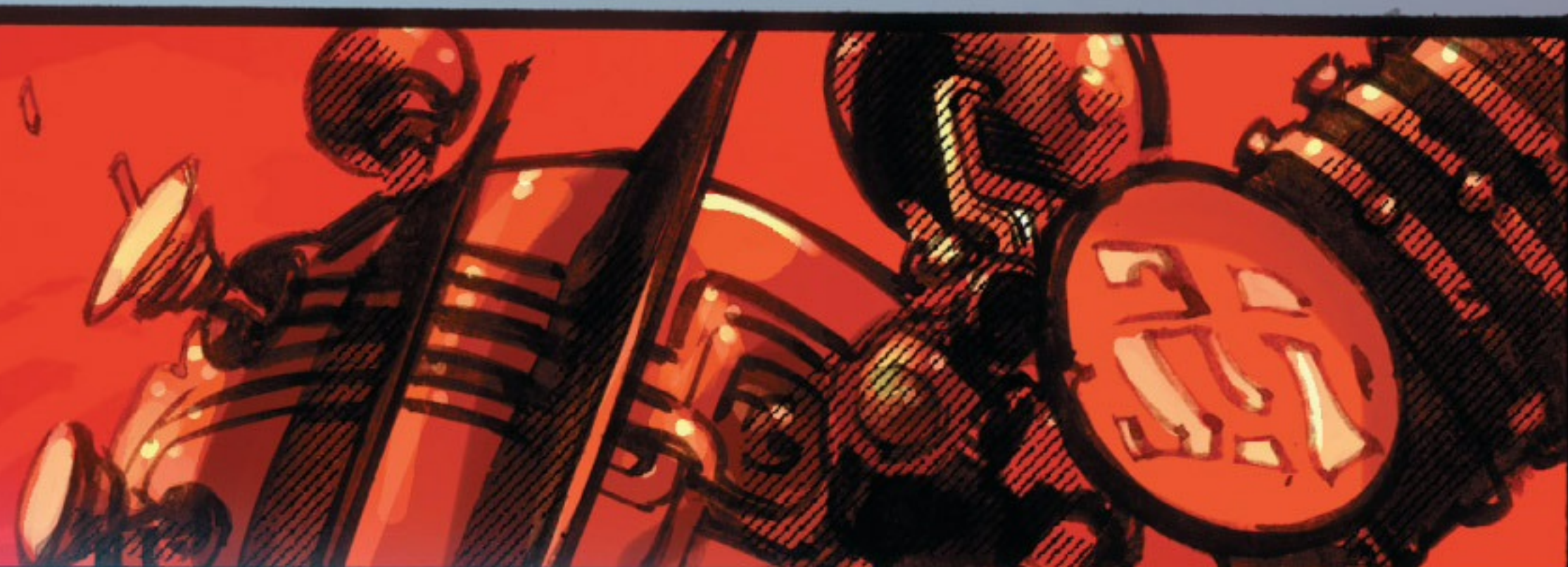


BLOOD AND BROKEN
BONES. NO QUARTER
ASKED, AND NONE GIVEN.

DEATH WAS
ASSURED...

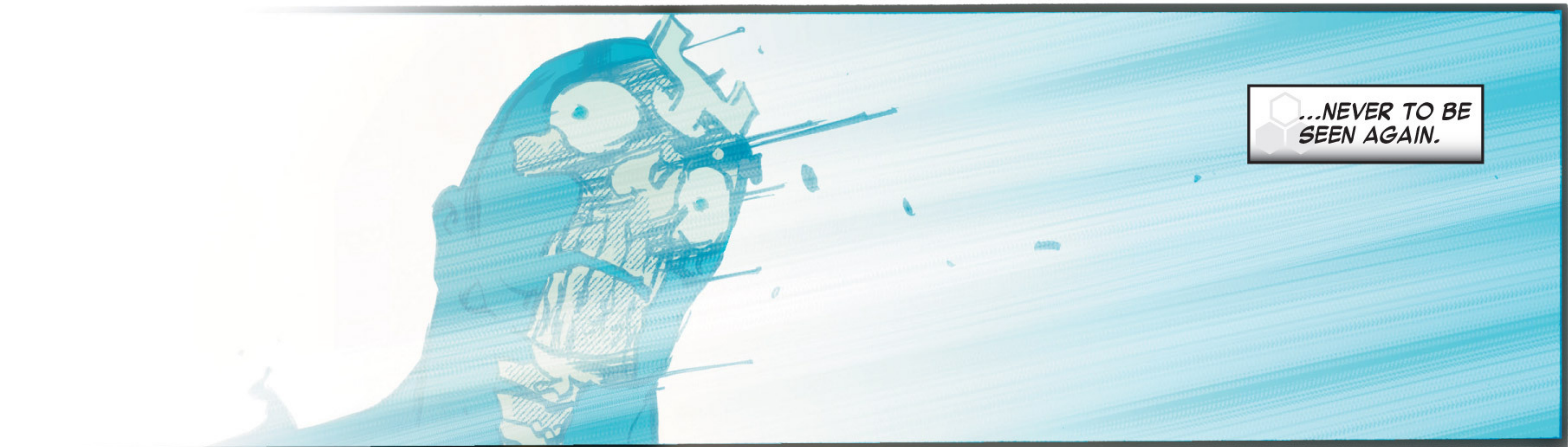


A BOMB TO TEAR
SPACE AND TIME
GUARANTEED IT.

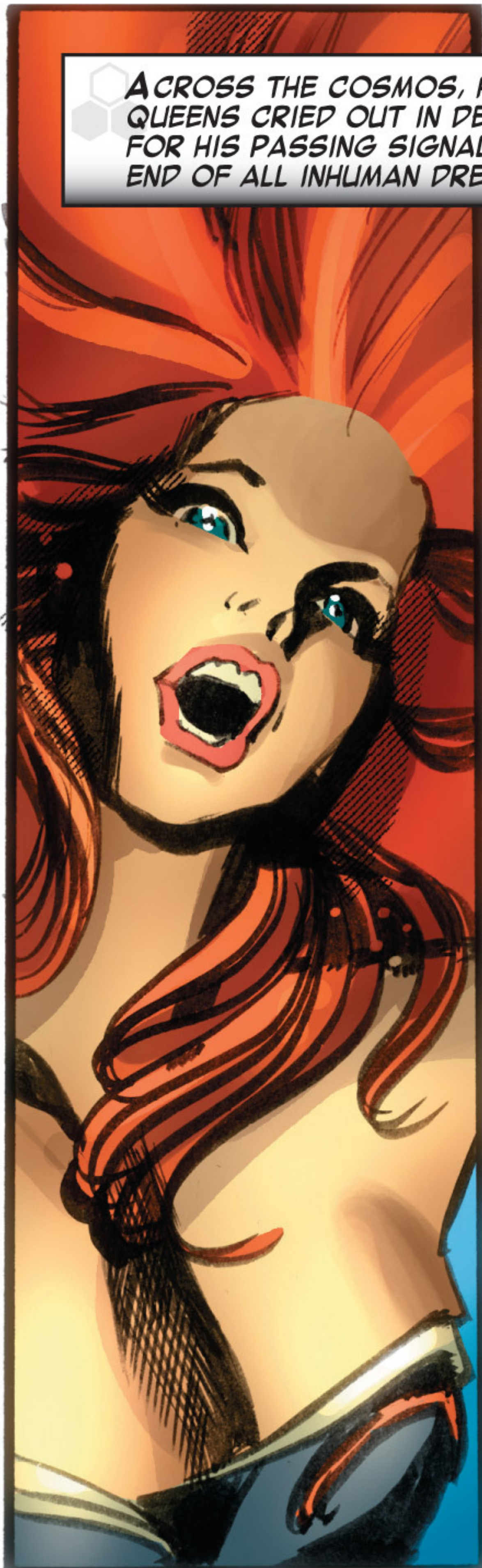


AND UPON DETONATION, THE MIDNIGHT
KING--BLACK BOLT--RULER OF THE KREE,
FIRST AMONG INHUMANS, AND SON OF
PROPHECY DISAPPEARED INTO THE NEWLY
CREATED FAULT...

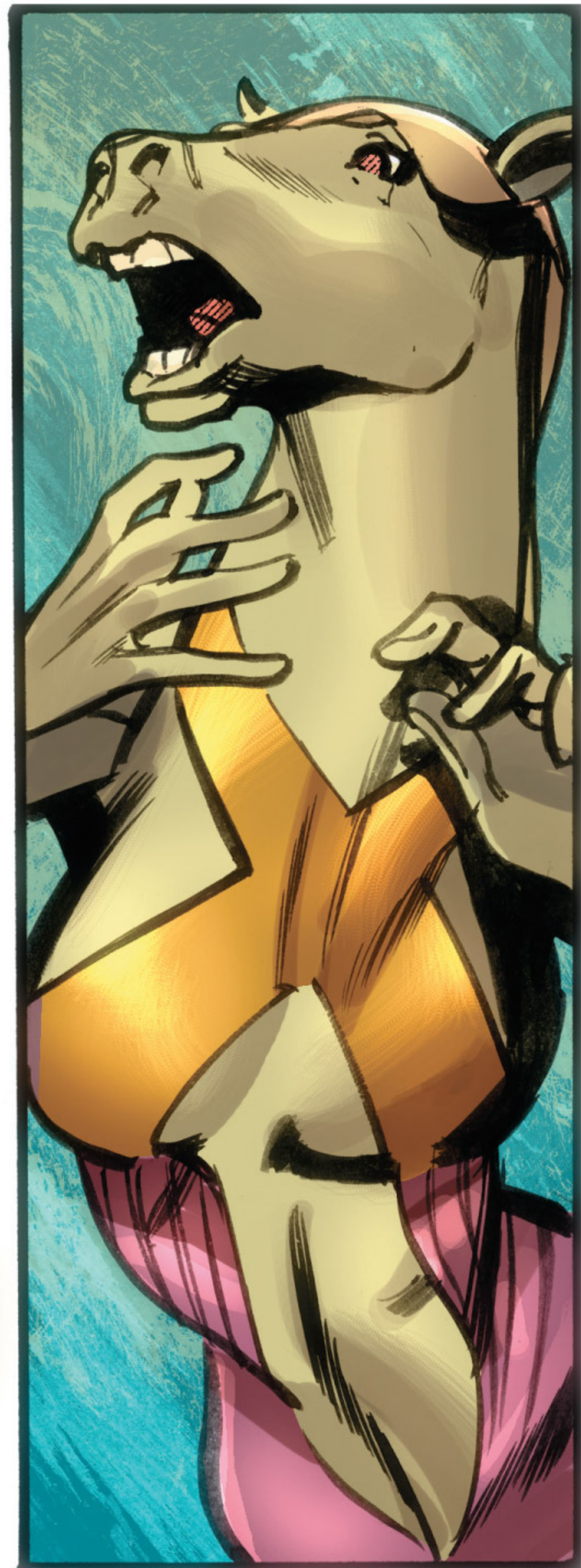
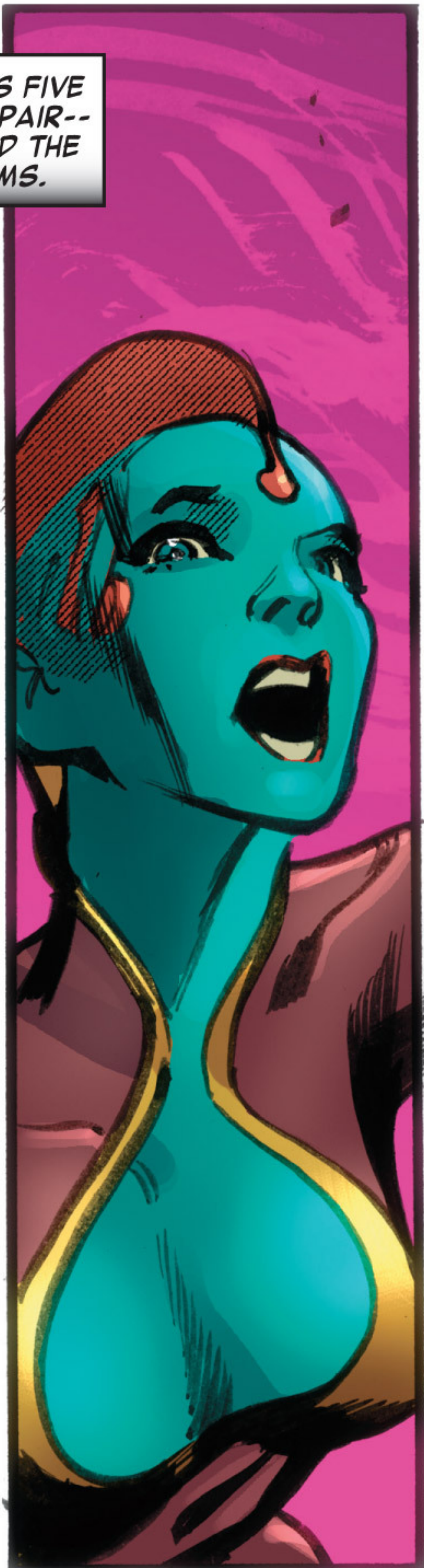




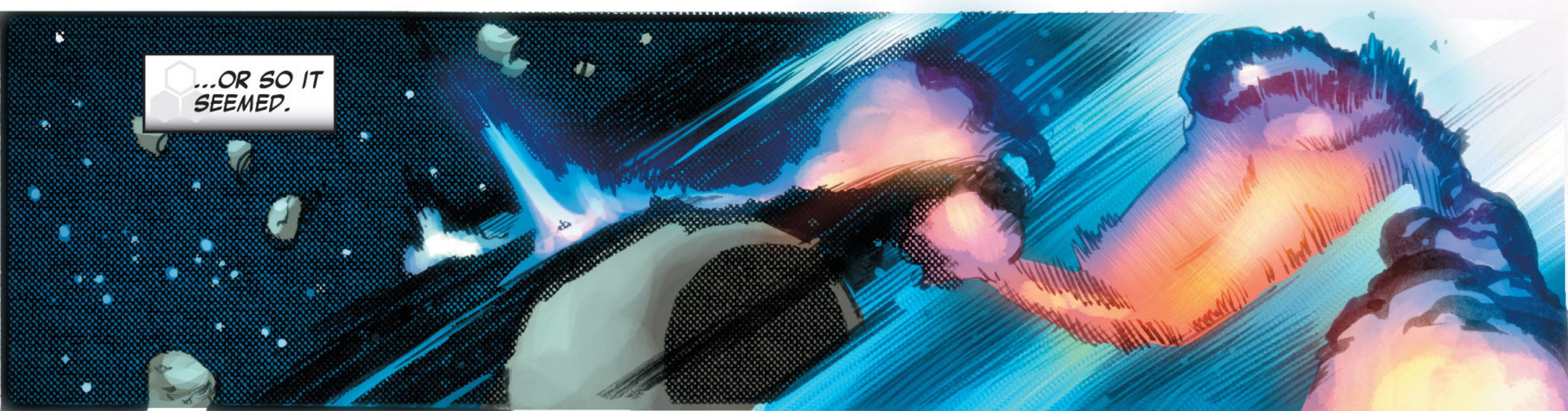
...NEVER TO BE
SEEN AGAIN.



ACROSS THE COSMOS, HIS FIVE
QUEENS CRIED OUT IN DESPAIR--
FOR HIS PASSING SIGNED THE
END OF ALL INHUMAN DREAMS.



EVERYTHING
HAD BEEN LOST...



...OR SO IT
SEEMED.



HALA.
SEAT OF THE KREE EMPIRE.
WEEKS AGO.



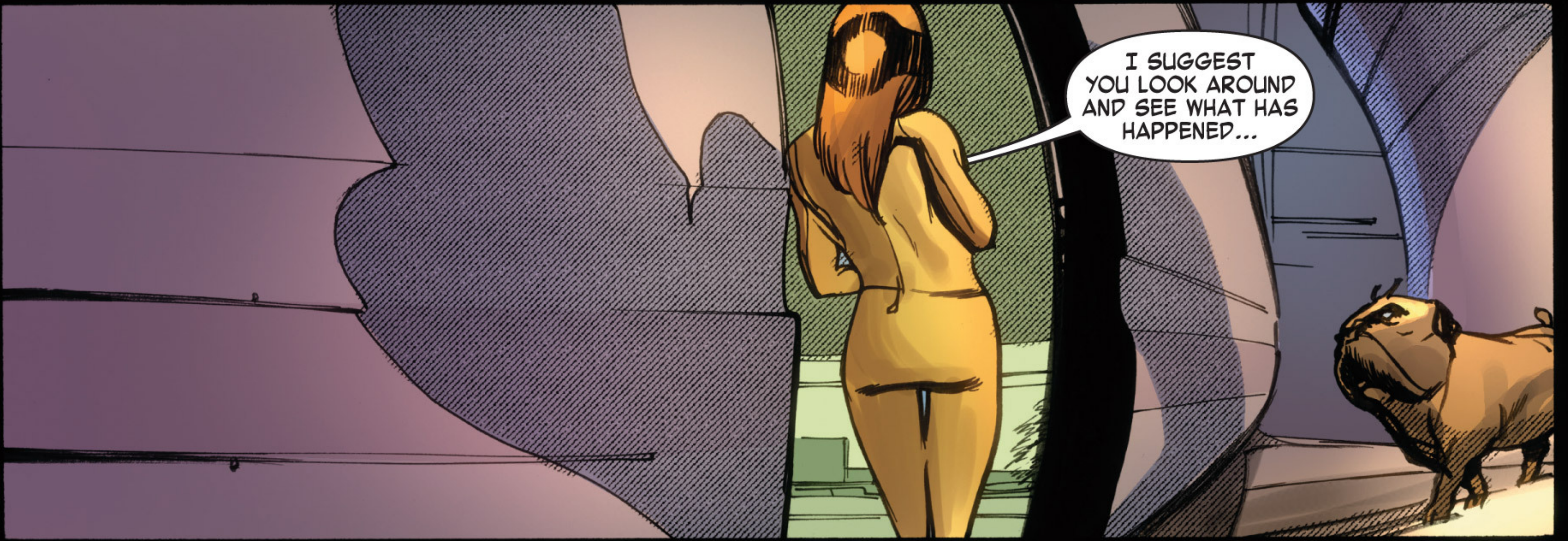
SEE?
IT ALL FITS
TOGETHER
NICELY.

EVERYTHING
COMES TOGETHER
IF YOU CAN SEE
THE ORDER WITHIN
THE CHAOS.

I'VE GOT
A PLAN...

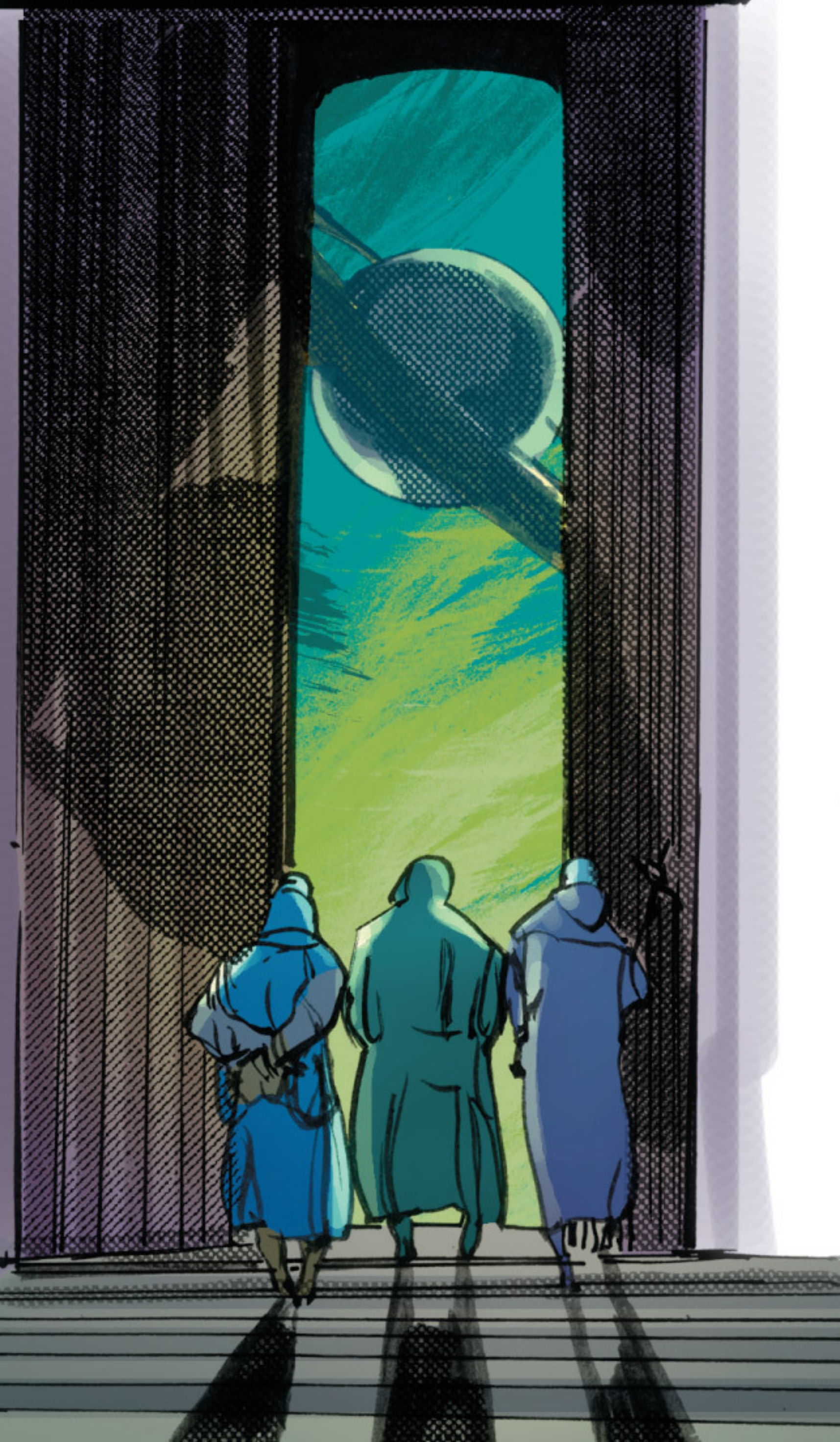
A
BEAUTIFUL,
BEAUTIFUL
PLAN.







HALA.
SEAT OF THE KREE EMPIRE.
HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS
OF YEARS AGO.





SUPREME
INTELLIGENCE.
YOUR GUESTS HAVE
ARRIVED.

I WILL
WAIT BEYOND
THE THRESHOLD,
SHOULD YOU
NEED ME.



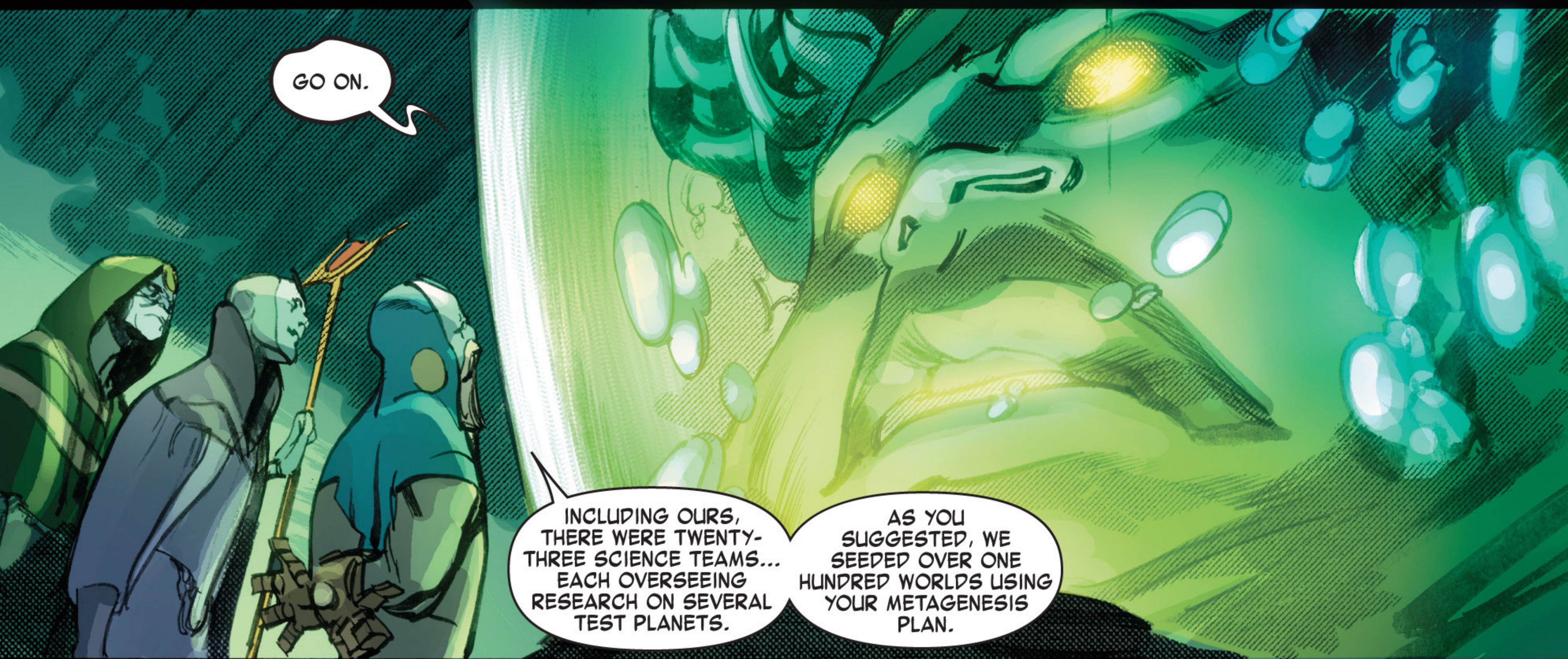
STAY,
ACCUSER...THIS
WILL REQUIRE A
WITNESS.

YOU HAVE A
REPORT?



SUCCESS,
SUPREMOR.

UNEXPECTED...
UNPARALLELED
SUCCESS.



GO ON.

INCLUDING OURS,
THERE WERE TWENTY-
THREE SCIENCE TEAMS...
EACH OVERSEEING
RESEARCH ON SEVERAL
TEST PLANETS.

AS YOU
SUGGESTED, WE
SEEDED OVER ONE
HUNDRED WORLDS USING
YOUR METAGENESIS
PLAN.



"IT REQUIRES A SPECIFIC,
RACE-BASED CATALYST...
BUT WITH *EACH SPECIES*,
WE HAVE HAD A FAVORABLE
OUTCOME."



THERE IS
NOTHING WE
CANNOT CREATE
A WEAPON
FROM.



YOU HAVE
A RECORD OF
THIS?

YOU HAVE
DOCUMENTATION?

FOR YOU,
SUPREMOR...
THE GIFT OF
DATA.



TUNNELING WITHIN.



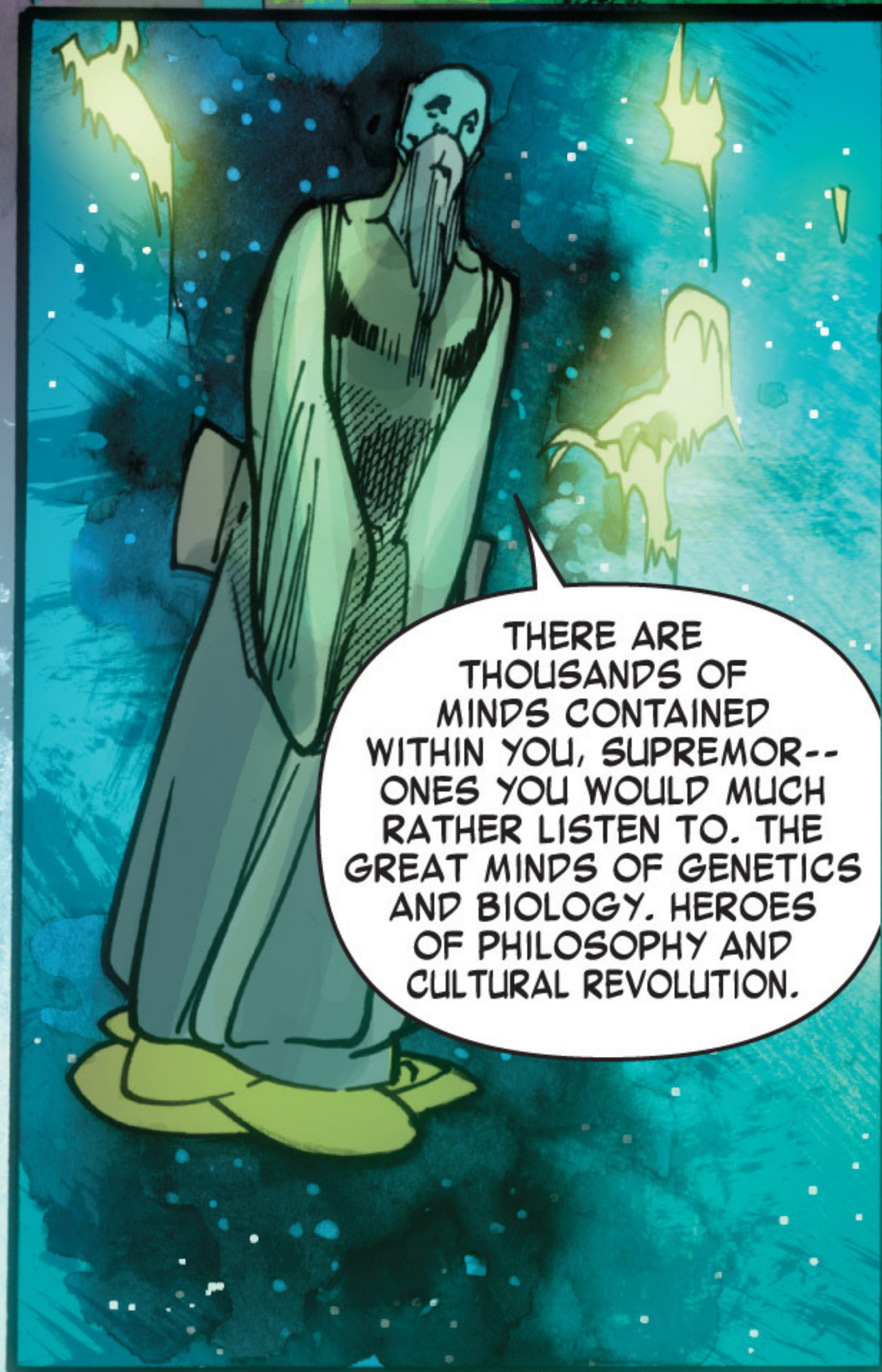
FORTY PERCENT...

THERE IS DISSENT HERE.



STEP FORWARD, PRIEST.

WHAT HAVE YOU DISCOVERED WITHIN THE FLOW?



THERE ARE THOUSANDS OF MINDS CONTAINED WITHIN YOU, SUPREMOR--ONES YOU WOULD MUCH RATHER LISTEN TO. THE GREAT MINDS OF GENETICS AND BIOLOGY. HEROES OF PHILOSOPHY AND CULTURAL REVOLUTION.



SO WHY IS IT THAT A MAN OF RELIGION IS THE LONE VOICE THAT RESONATES?



FIFTY PERCENT...

YOU SEE SOMETHING THEY DO NOT--A FLAW IN PERFECT ORDER. A CRACK IN THE MACHINE.

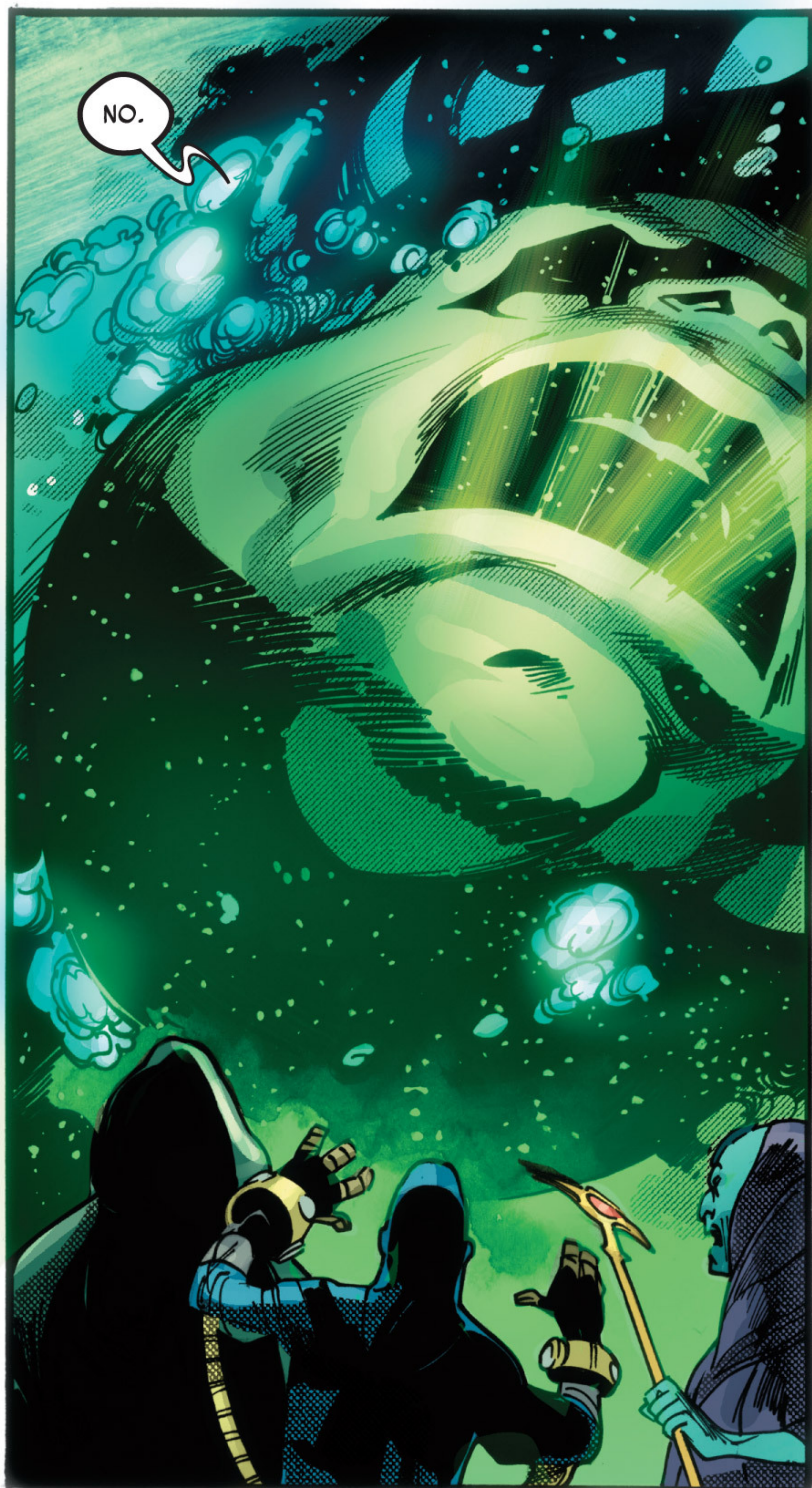


YES, THERE... HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF YEARS FROM NOW...



YOU CAN SEE IT NOW, CAN'T YOU--YOU CAN HEAR IT.

THE DIVINE CHIMERA. YOUR GREAT PLAN OF METAGENESIS WILL PRODUCE SOMETHING UNEXPECTED.



NO.



WHAT'S
WRONG WITH...

TAKE ONE
STEP FURTHER
AND I SWEAR IT
WILL BE YOUR
LAST.



ARE YOU
ALL RIGHT,
SUPREMOR?

YES.



EIGHTY
PERCENT...

DOES THIS
DATA CRYSTAL
CONTAIN ALL INFORMATION
REGARDING THE
METAGENESIS
PROGRAM?

SYSTEM
LOCATIONS, RACE
SPECIFICATIONS,
BASES OF
OPERATION?



YES.

IT
DOES.



NINETY
PERCENT...

GOOD. THIS
RESEARCH STOPS
NOW.

ACCUSER...
KILL THESE
MEN.



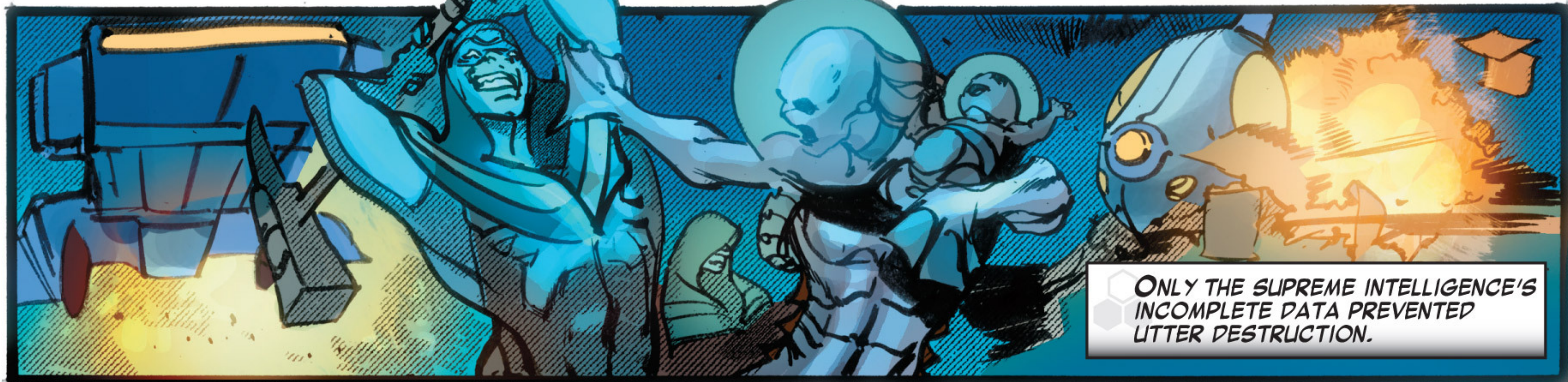




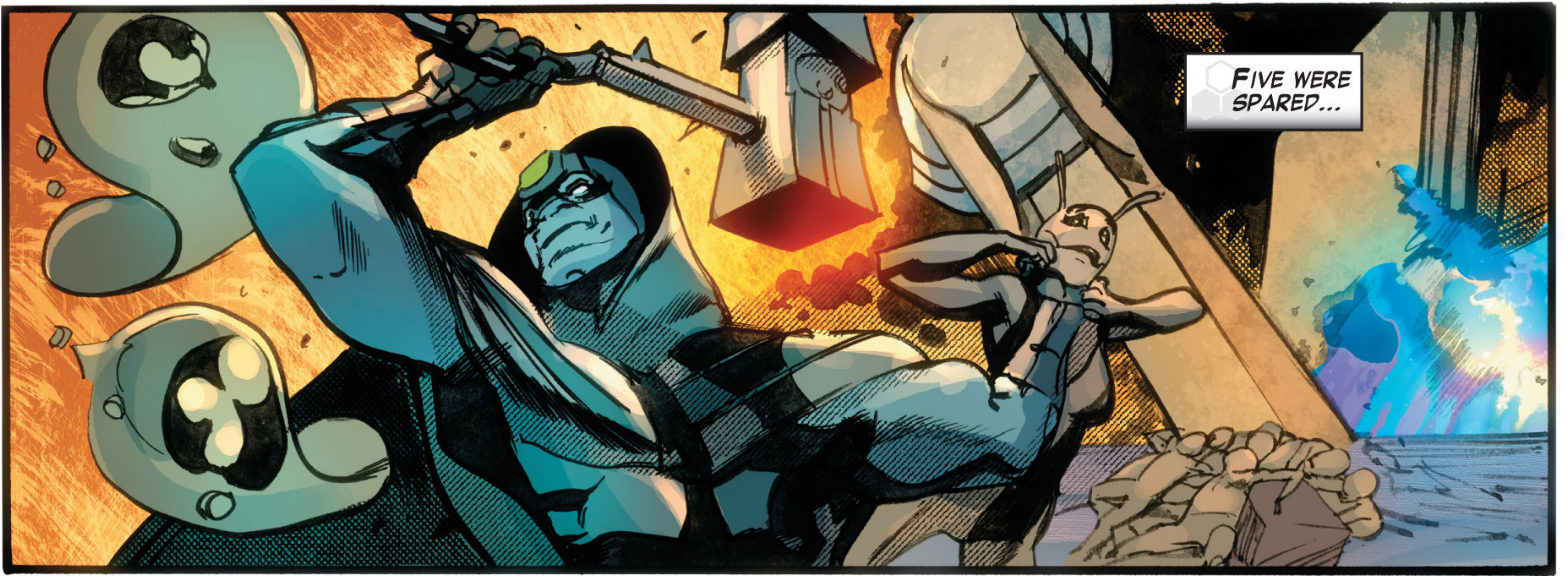
THE ACCUSERS BURNED
WORLD AFTER WORLD.



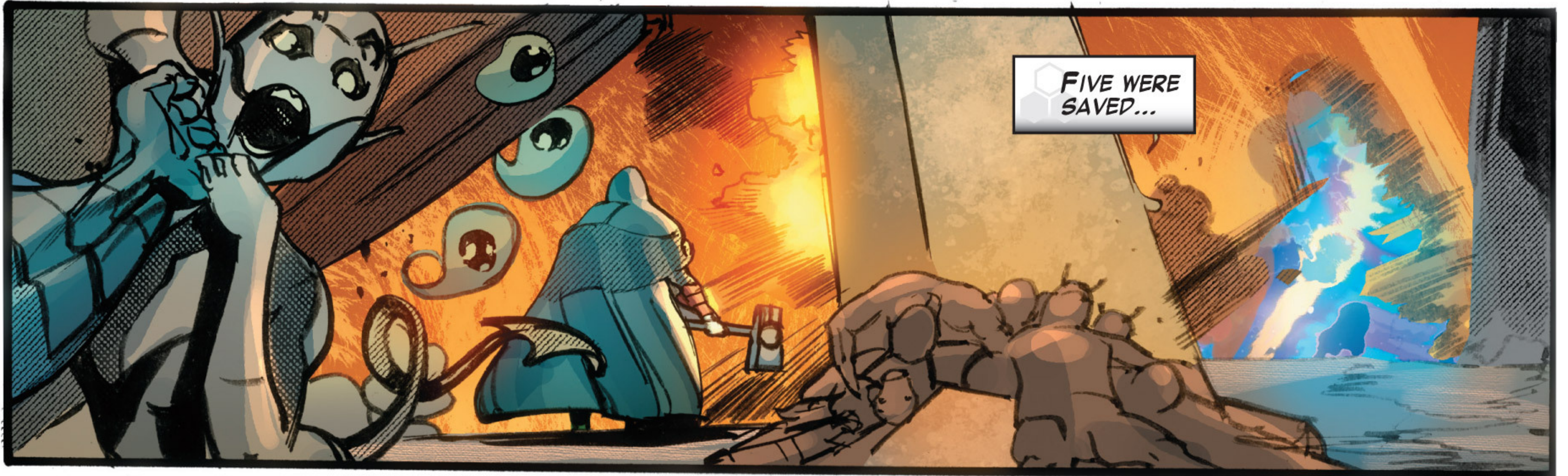
HUNDREDS
FELL.



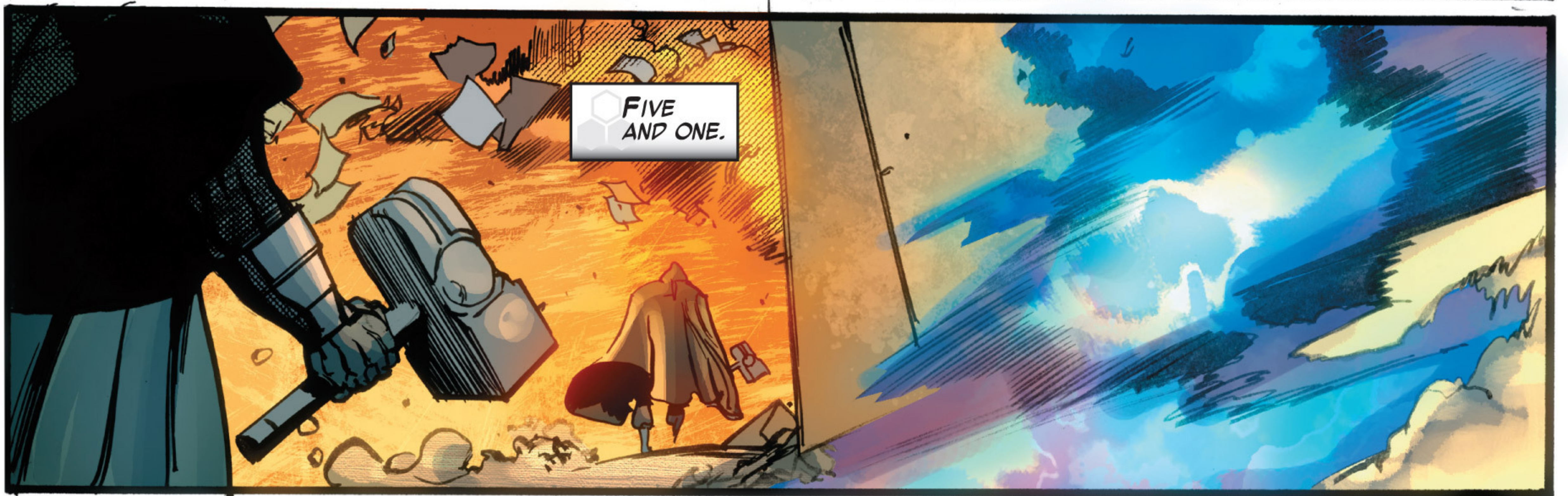
ONLY THE SUPREME INTELLIGENCE'S
INCOMPLETE DATA PREVENTED
LITTER DESTRUCTION.



FIVE WERE
SPARED...



FIVE WERE
SAVED...



FIVE
AND ONE.



FIVE QUEENS FOR
THE ONE KING.



IF THERE IS ONE THING THAT
IS CONSTANT ABOUT DESTINY--
ONE THING THAT ENDURES THE
CHANGING OF SPACE AND TIME...
THAT DEFIES EVEN DEATH--
IT IS THIS:

FATE CANNOT
BE AVOIDED.

ONE DAY YOU WAKE...AND THE
UNIVERSE HAS CONSPIRED TO
MAKE OF YOU SOMETHING MORE.

AND THAT
DAY?

IT IS
NOW.



NEXT ISSUE: KREE-DESTINED!



HICKMAN

•

TOCCHINI

•

MOUNTS

MARVEL

7



THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND YEARS AGO, THE ALIEN **KREE** EXPERIMENTED ON YOUNG RACES THROUGHOUT THE COSMOS IN AN ATTEMPT TO CREATE LIVING WEAPONS THROUGH METAGENESIS. THESE EXPERIMENTS CEASED WHEN **THE KREE SUPREME INTELLIGENCE** FORETOLD HIS OWN EVENTUAL DEMISE AT THE HANDS OF THE PRODUCT OF ONE SUCH EXPERIMENT. AT THE COMMAND OF THE SUPREMOR, KREE ACCUSERS WIPED OUT THE UNIVERSAL INHUMANS THEY HAD CREATED. BUT **FIVE TRIBES** ESCAPED DETECTION. MONTHS AGO, HAVING TAKEN OVER THE KREE EMPIRE, **BLACK BOLT**, KING OF THE **INHUMANS**, SEEMINGLY PERISHED IN BATTLE ABOVE THE DIMENSIONAL CRACK CALLED THE FAULT.



“THE SUPREMOR SEED”



REED RICHARDS,
MISTER FANTASTIC



SUSAN RICHARDS,
THE INVISIBLE WOMAN



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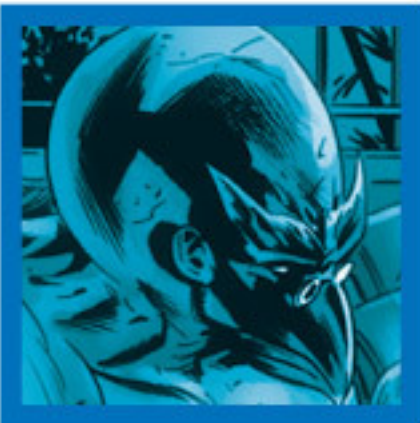
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DOCTOR DOOM



DRAGON MAN



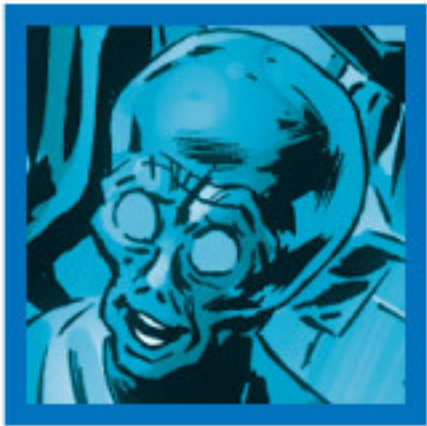
WU & VIL



MIK, KOR & TURG



TONG



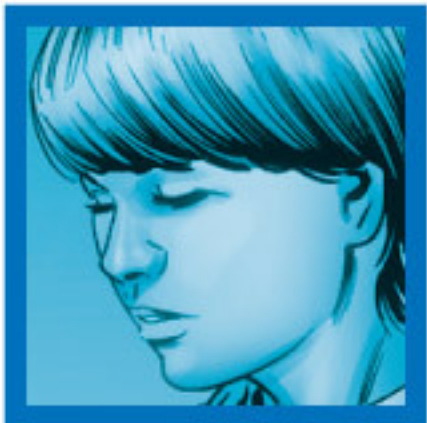
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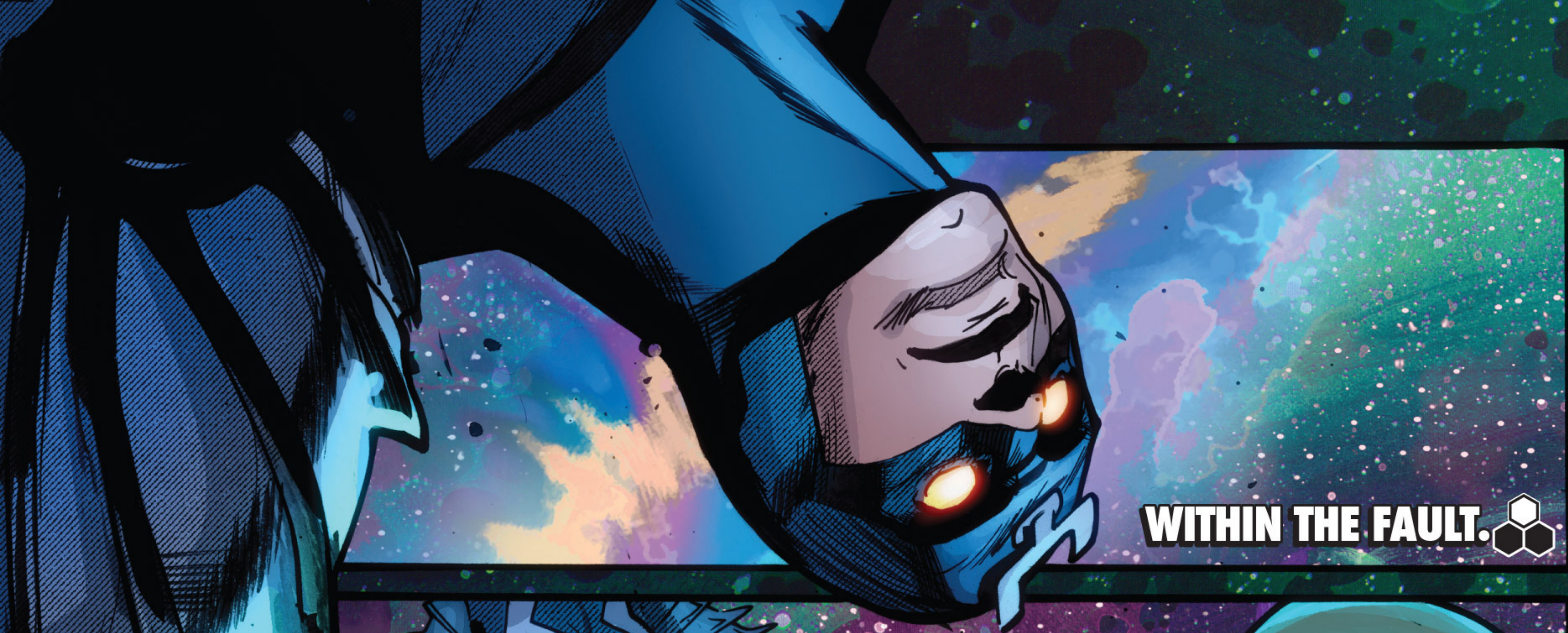
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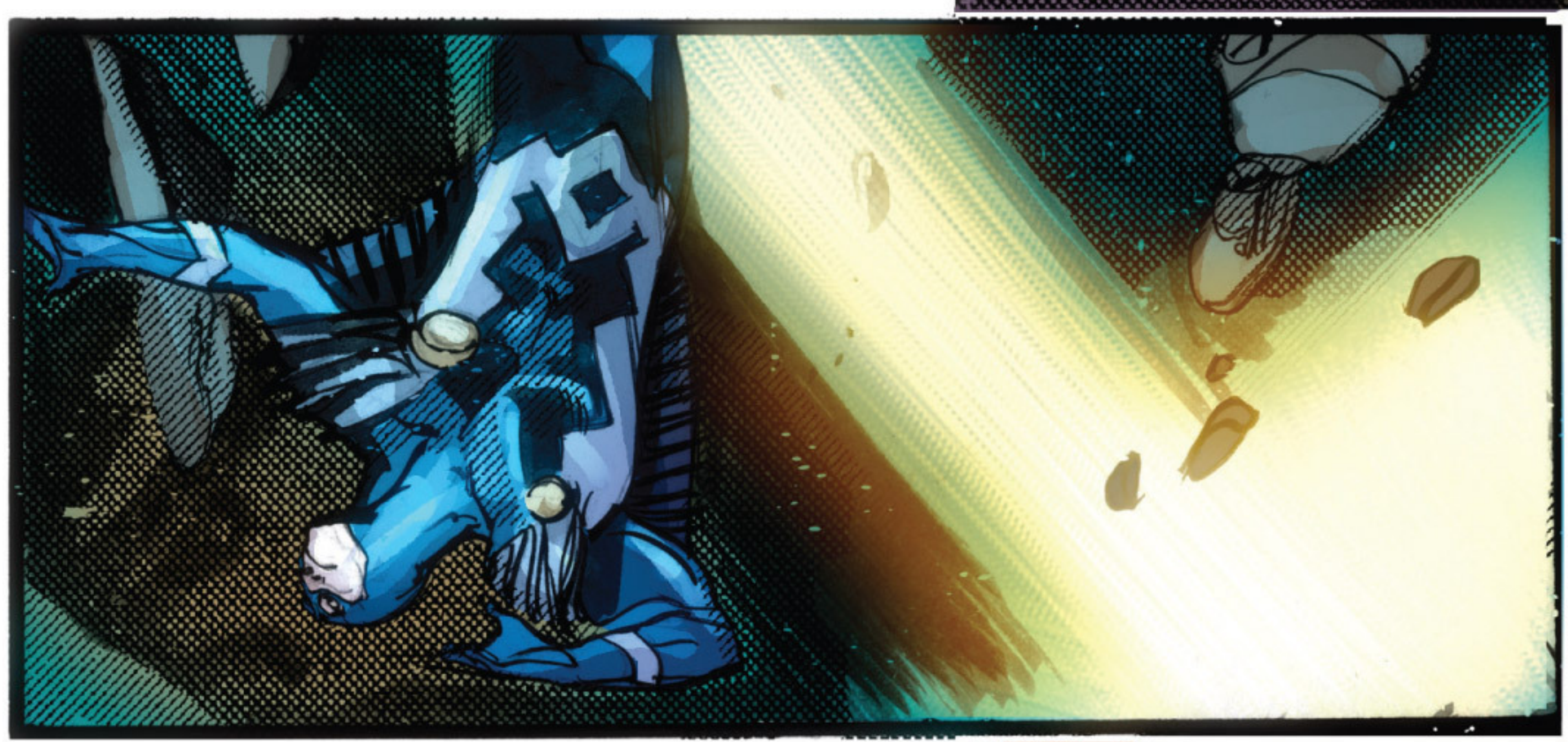
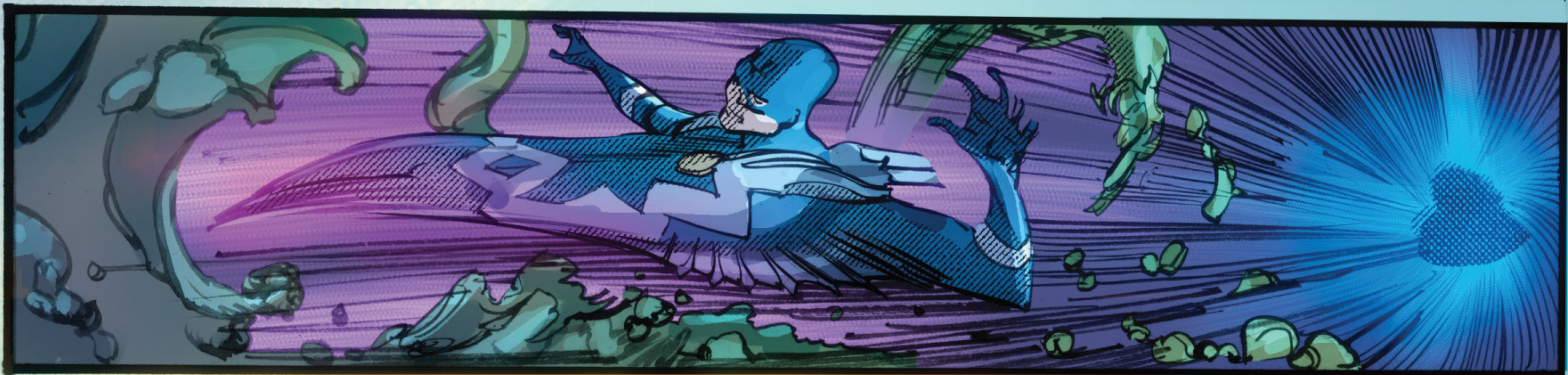
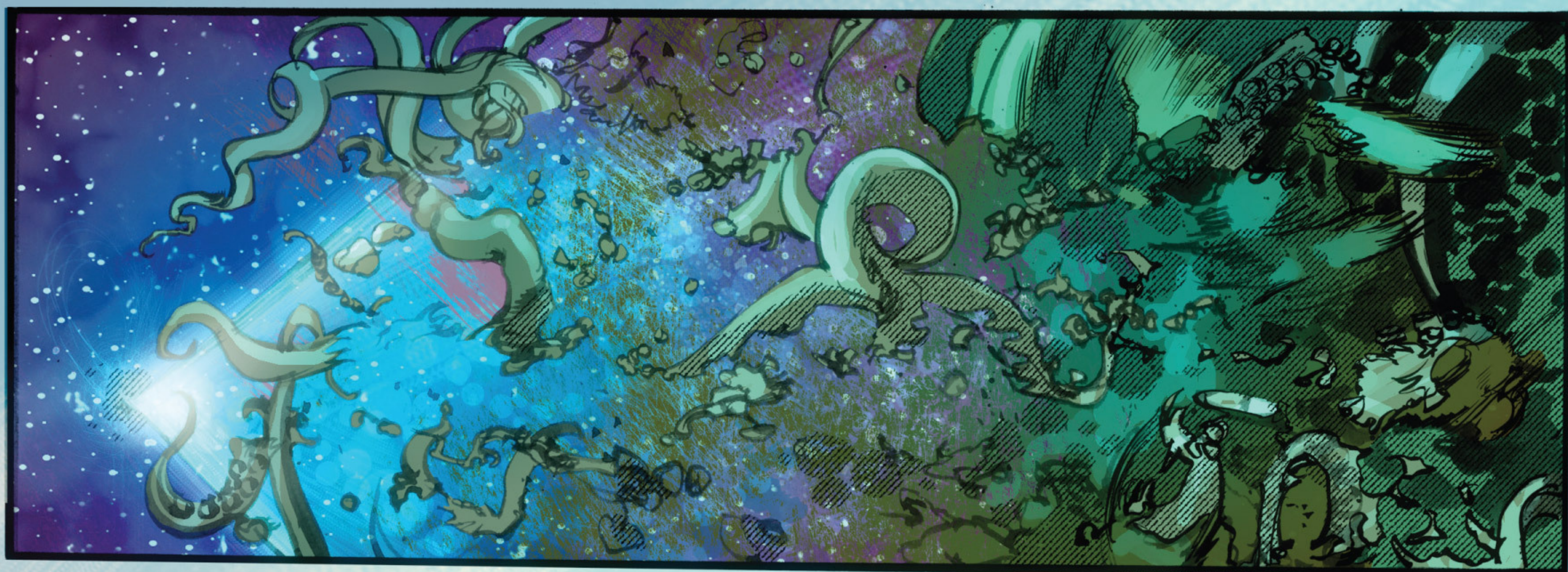
WITHIN THE FAULT. 

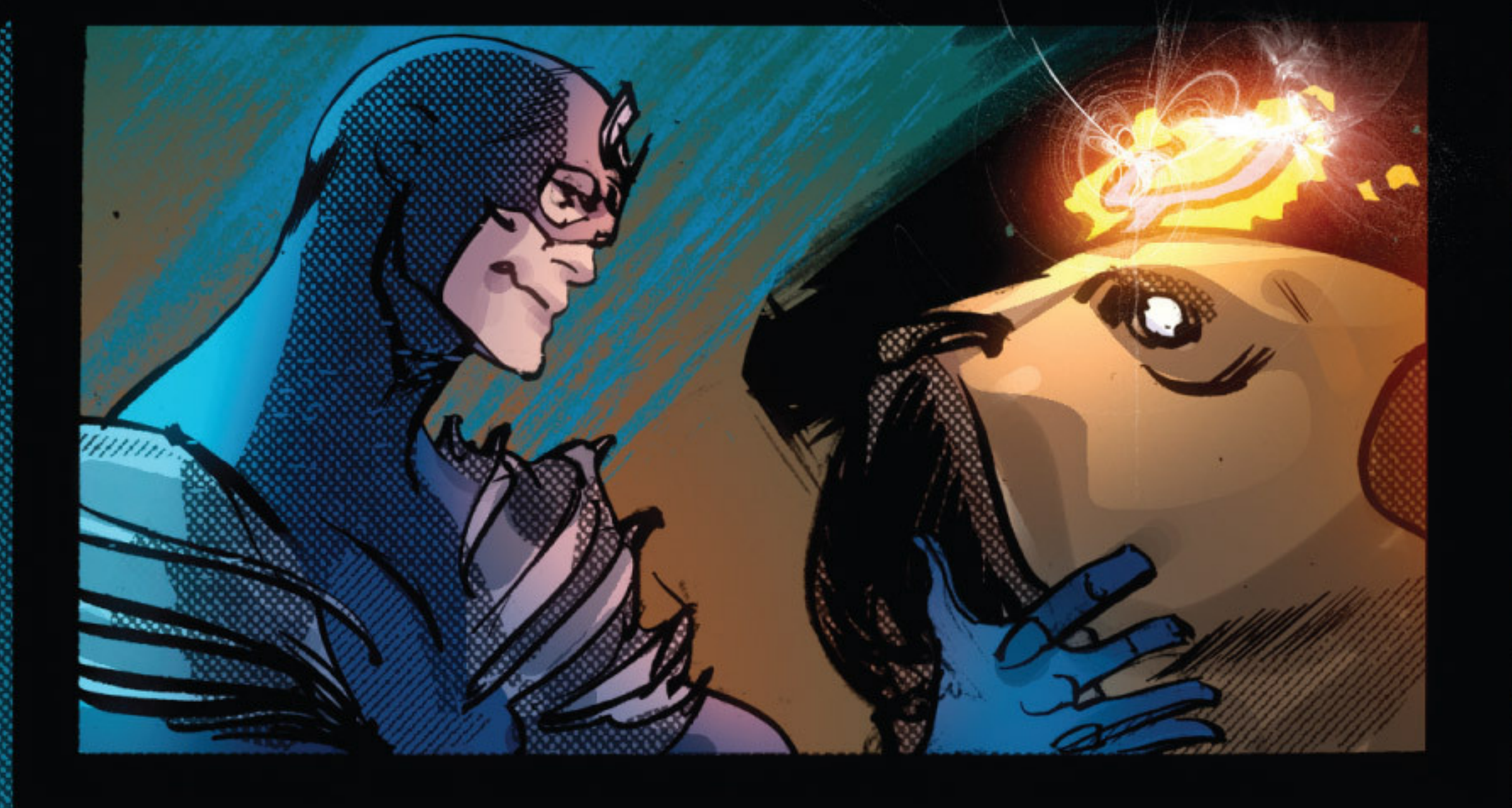


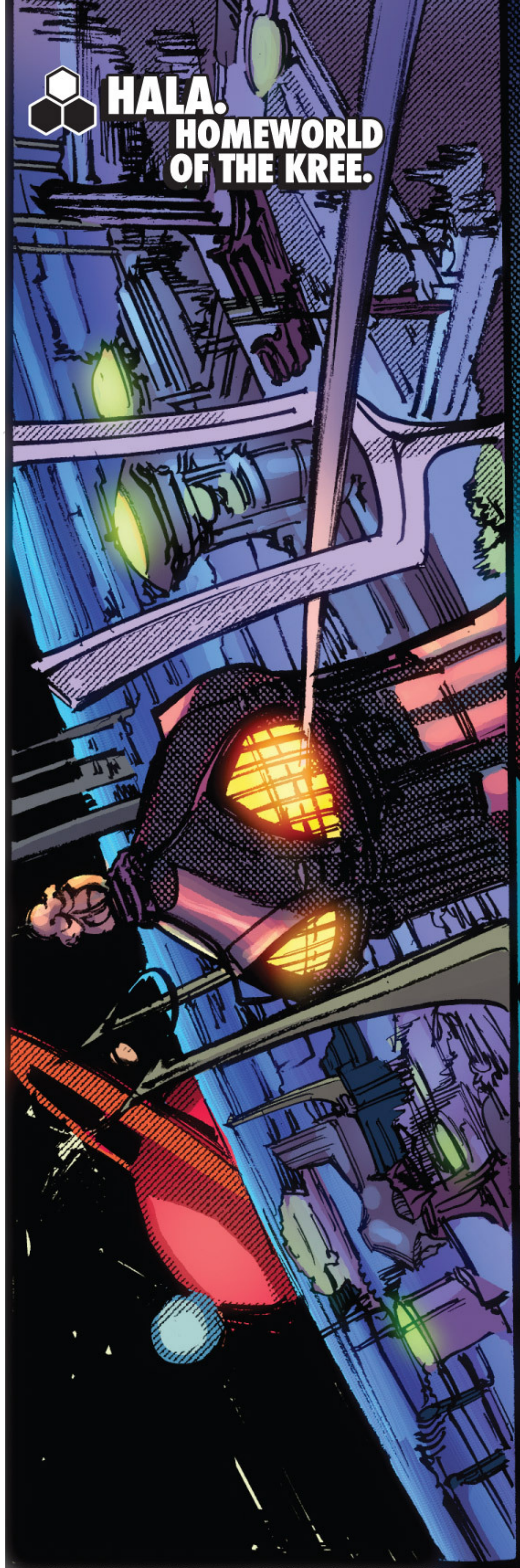
RELEASE
ME.











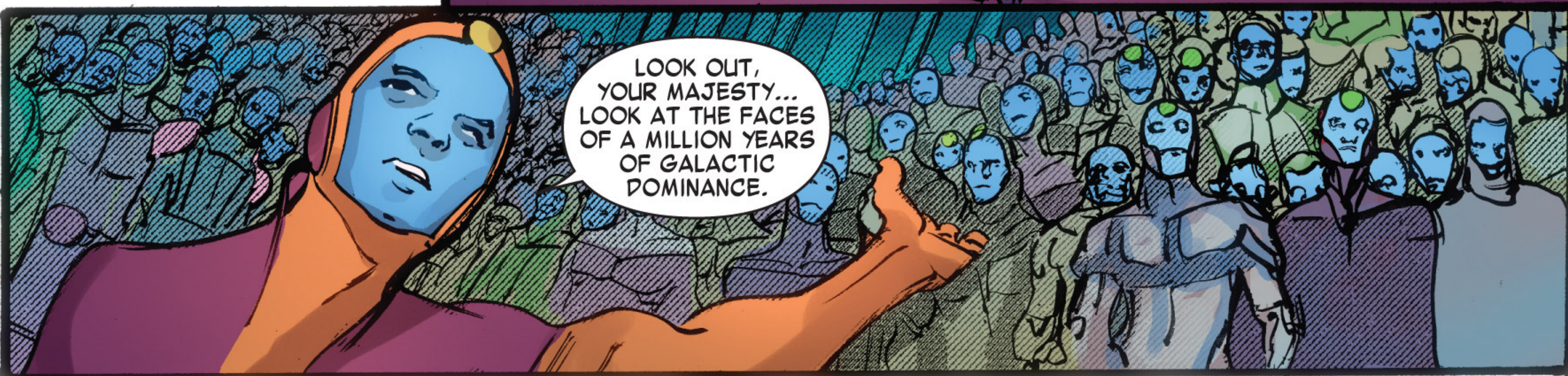
HALA.
HOMELAND
OF THE KREE.



FOR WEEKS
NOW, MINISTER,
YOU HAVE SENT YOUR
VASSALS BEFORE THIS
THRONE...YOU OFFER US
SOMETHING DIFFERENT
TODAY?

NO. NOR
SHOULD I, QUEEN
MEDUSA.

WE KREE ELITE
REPRESENT CONTROL
OF ALMOST ONE
HUNDRED KEY IMPERIAL
WORLDS...



LOOK OUT,
YOUR MAJESTY...
LOOK AT THE FACES
OF A MILLION YEARS
OF GALACTIC
DOMINANCE.



YOU
CANNOT TAKE
THAT AWAY
IN...

FWASH



IT CANNOT
BE...

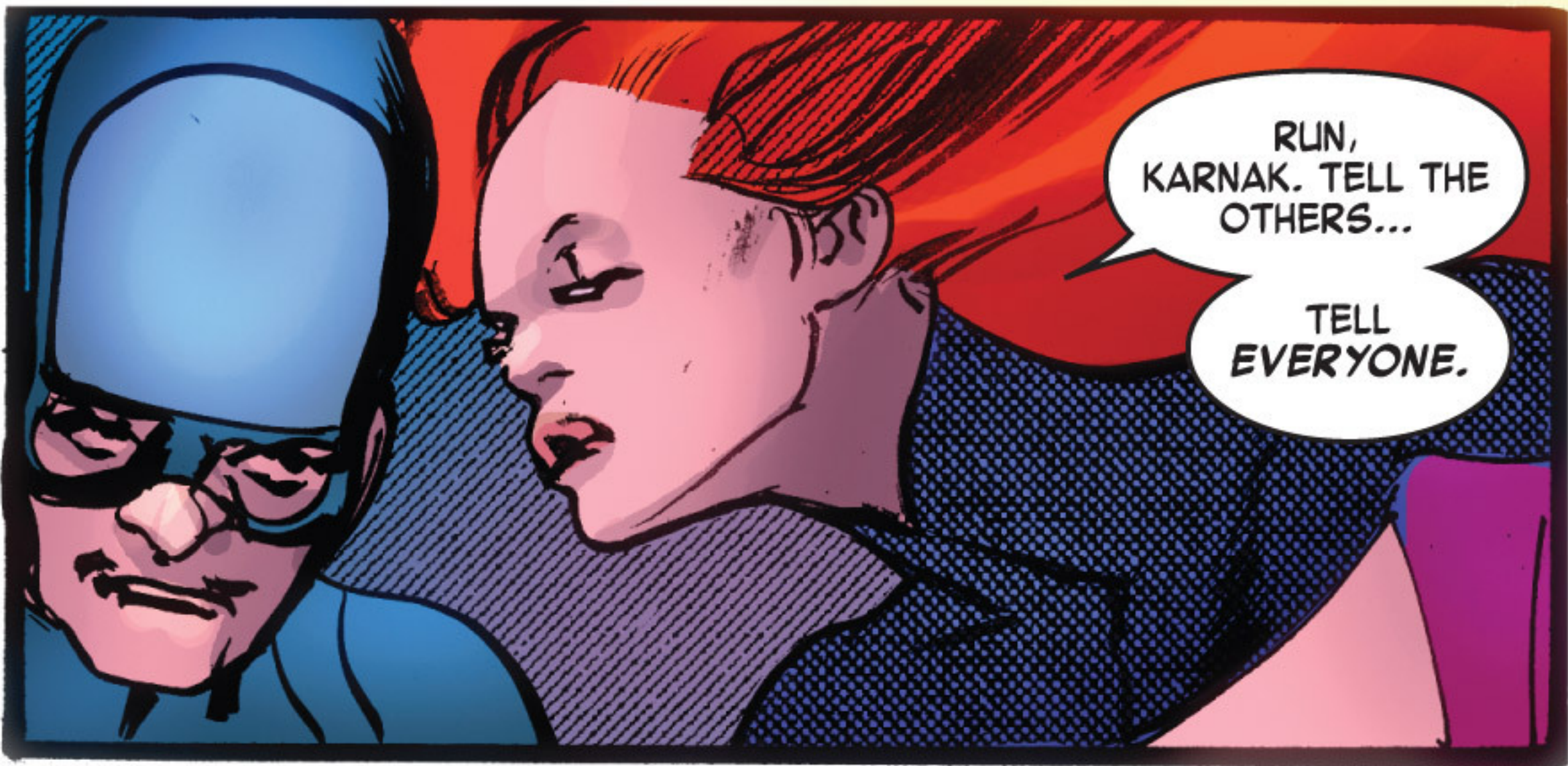
IT MOST
CERTAINLY
IS.

MY LORD...

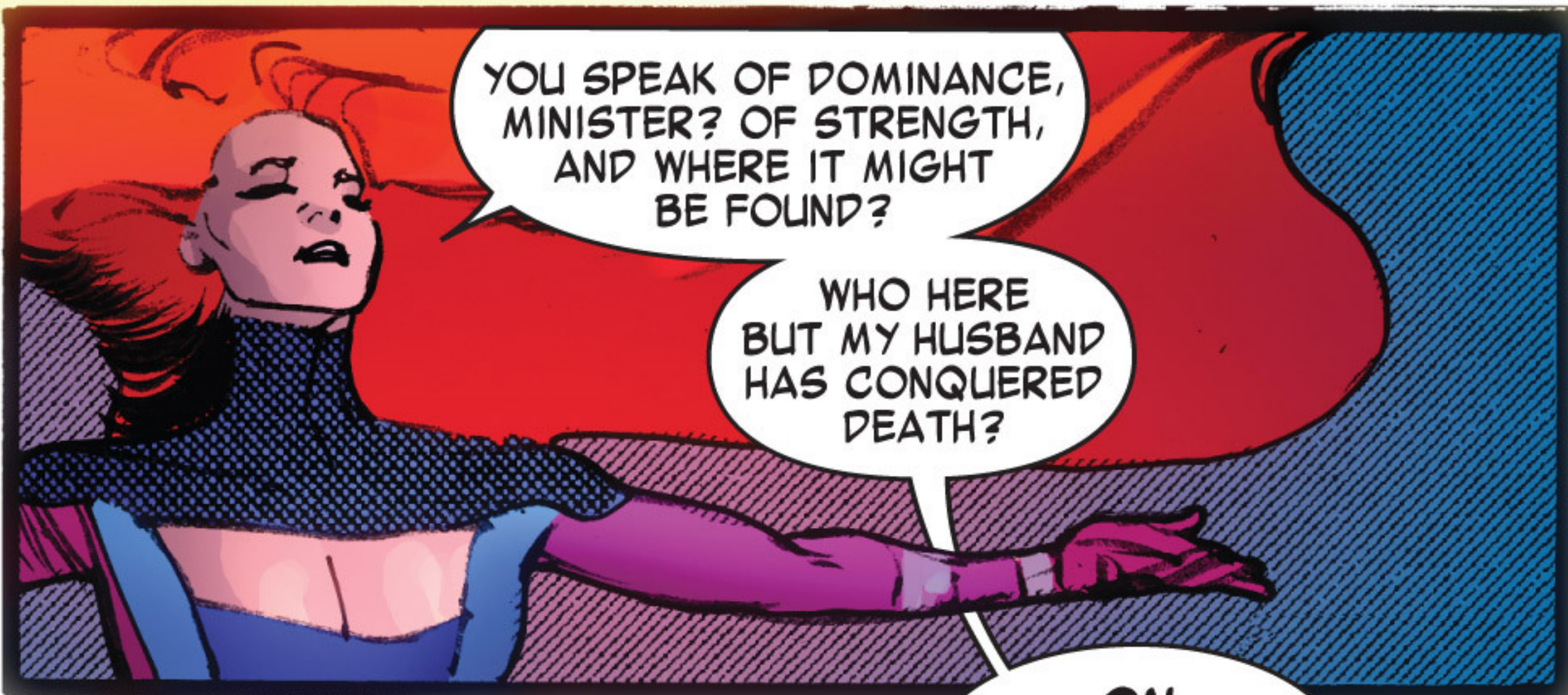


BLACK BOLT...

HE HAS RETURNED.



RUN, KARNAK. TELL THE OTHERS...
TELL EVERYONE.



YOU SPEAK OF DOMINANCE, MINISTER? OF STRENGTH, AND WHERE IT MIGHT BE FOUND?

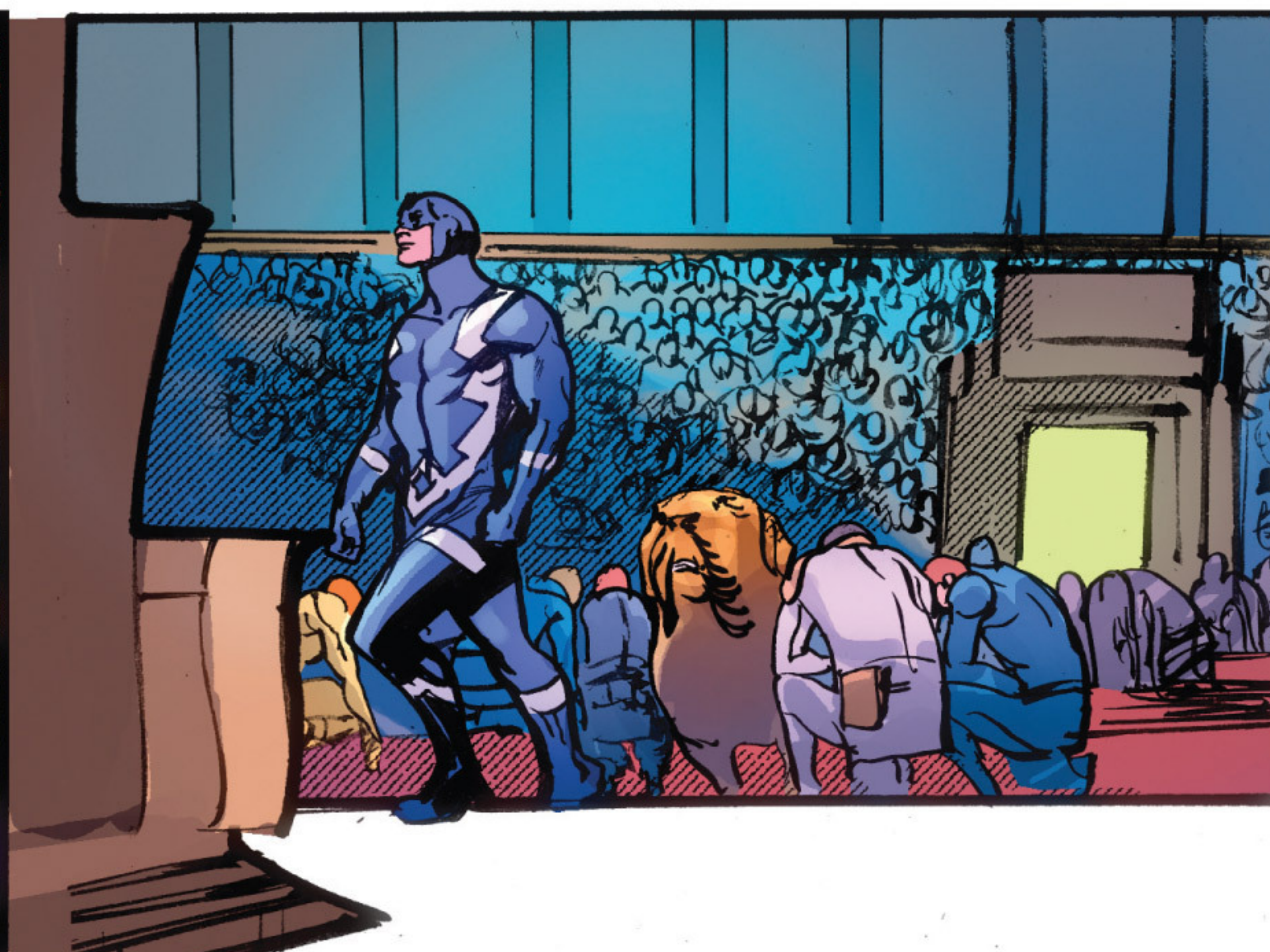
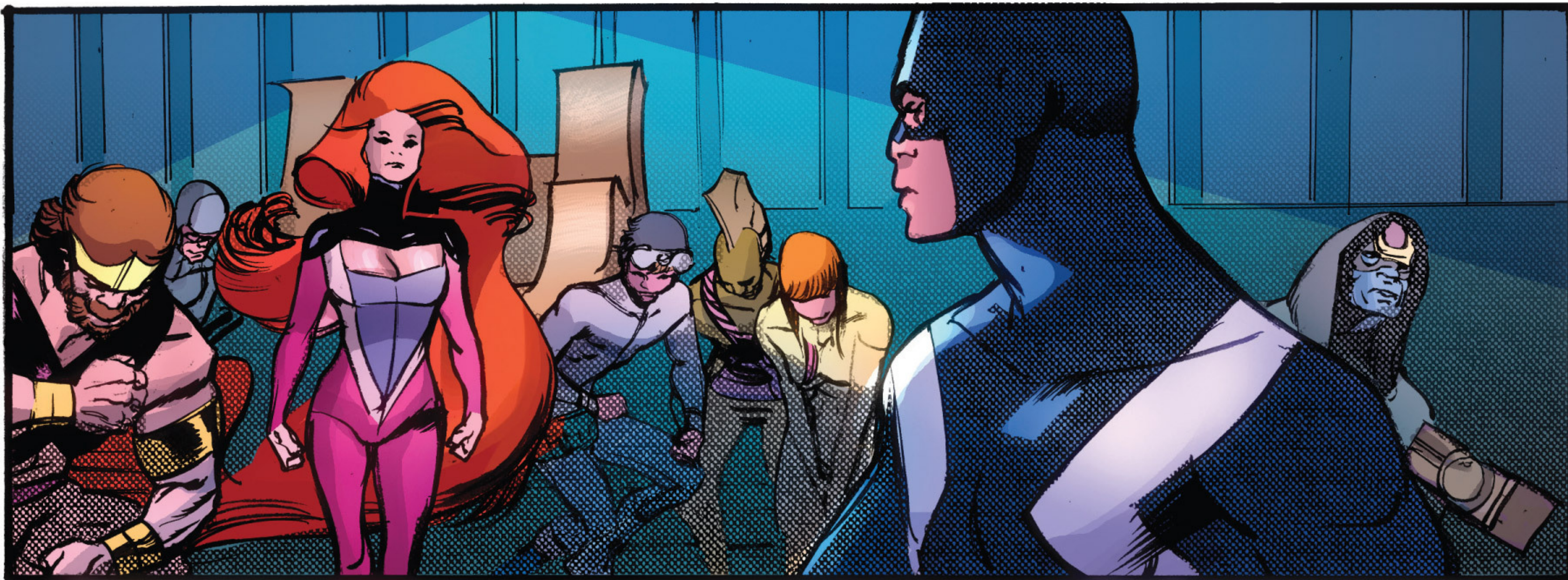
WHO HERE BUT MY HUSBAND HAS CONQUERED DEATH?



ON YOUR KNEES, KREE.

YOUR KING HAS RETURNED!







YOU MAY
CONTINUE.

YOUR WAR
HAS LEFT US **LESS**
THAN WHAT WE
SHOULD BE.

CURRENT PLANS
CALL FOR NECESSARY
RESOURCES TO BE DIVERTED
FROM THE REBUILDING OF CORE
WORLDS--THE HEART OF THE
EMPIRE--TO THE MORE NEEDY,
HARDER-HIT FRINGE
WORLDS.



NOBLE.
BUT NOT WHO
WE ARE.

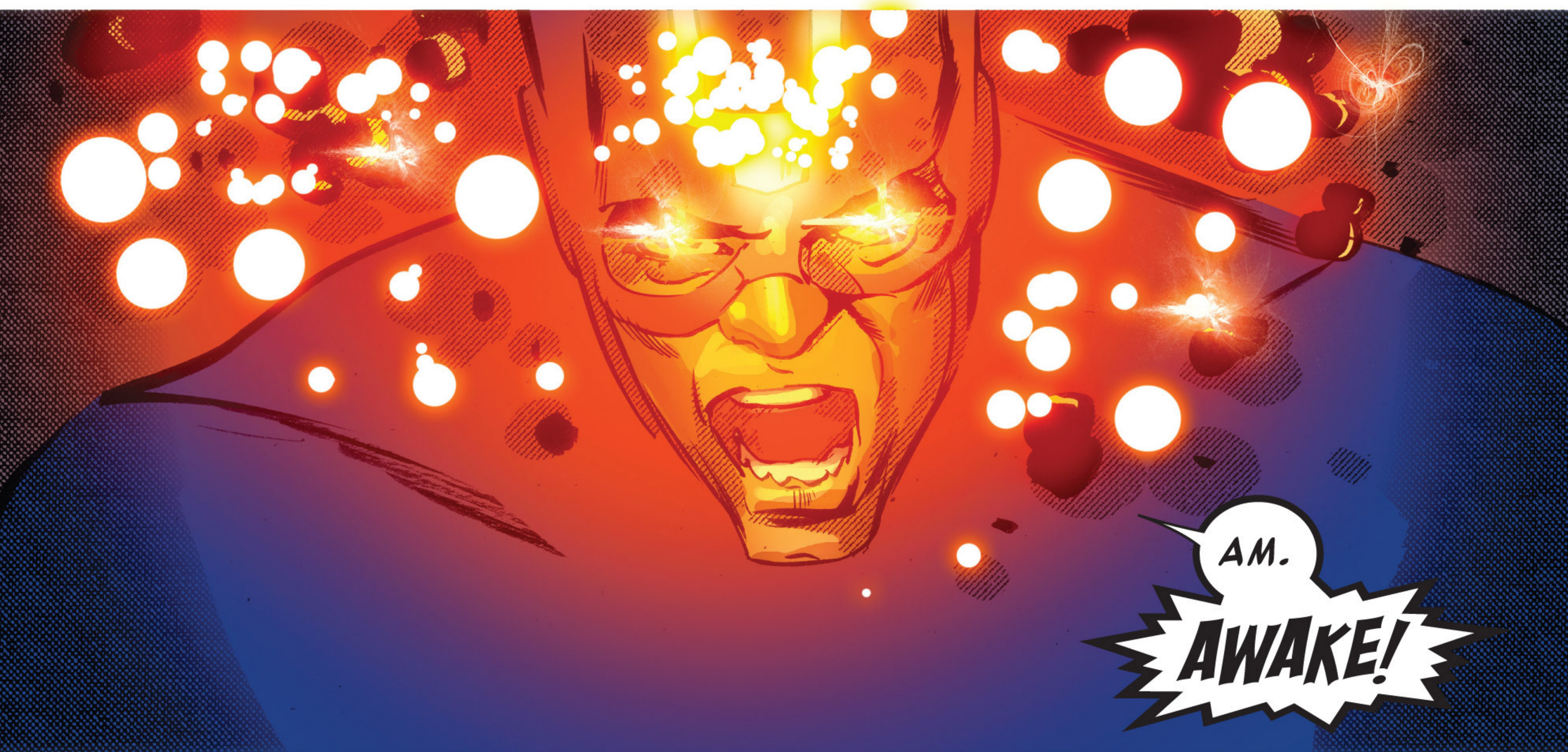
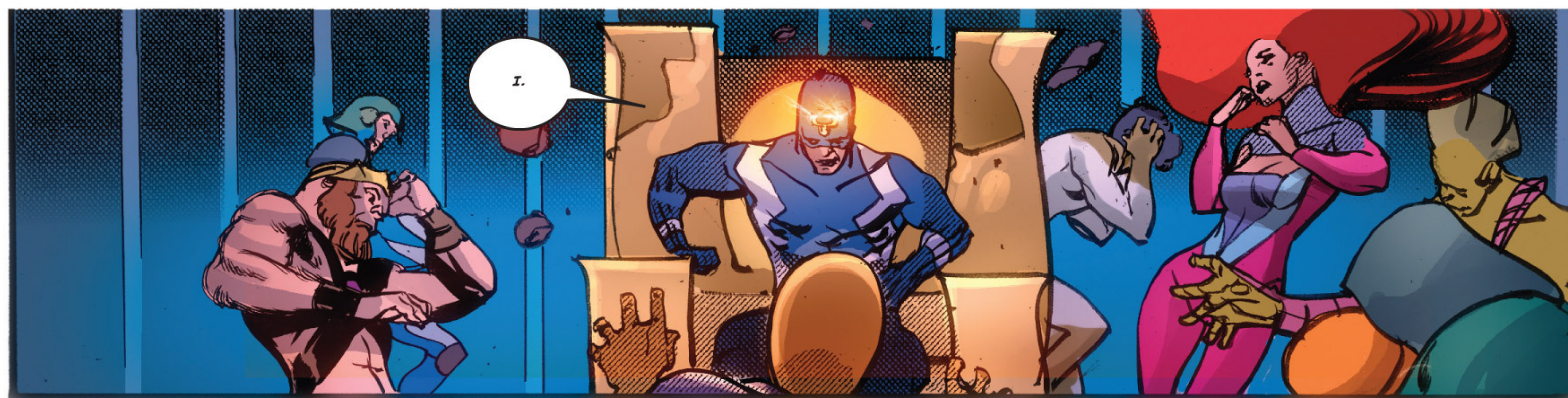
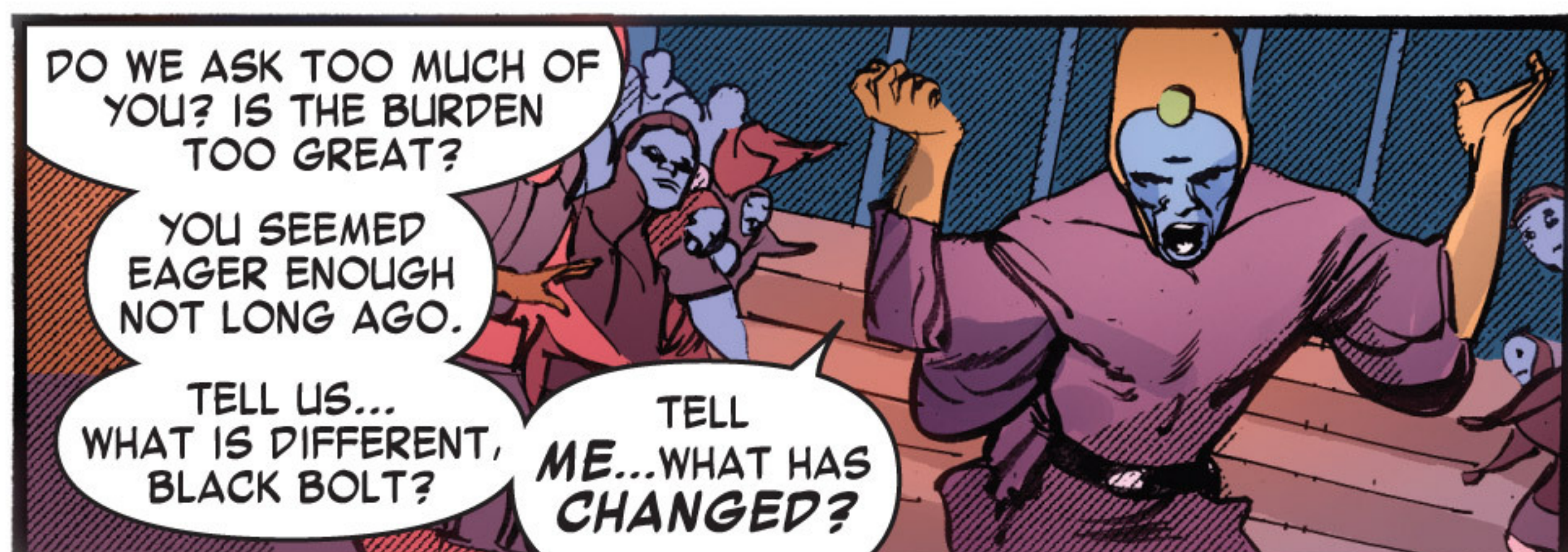
WE CELEBRATE
OUR WEAK FALLING
TO THE STRONG. WE MUST
REBUILD HERE AND LET THE
RIM STAND SPARTAN...LET THEM
EARN THEIR OWN FATE AND
BECOME HARD IN
DOING SO.

MY LORD...
WE HUMBLY
DEMAND
THIS.

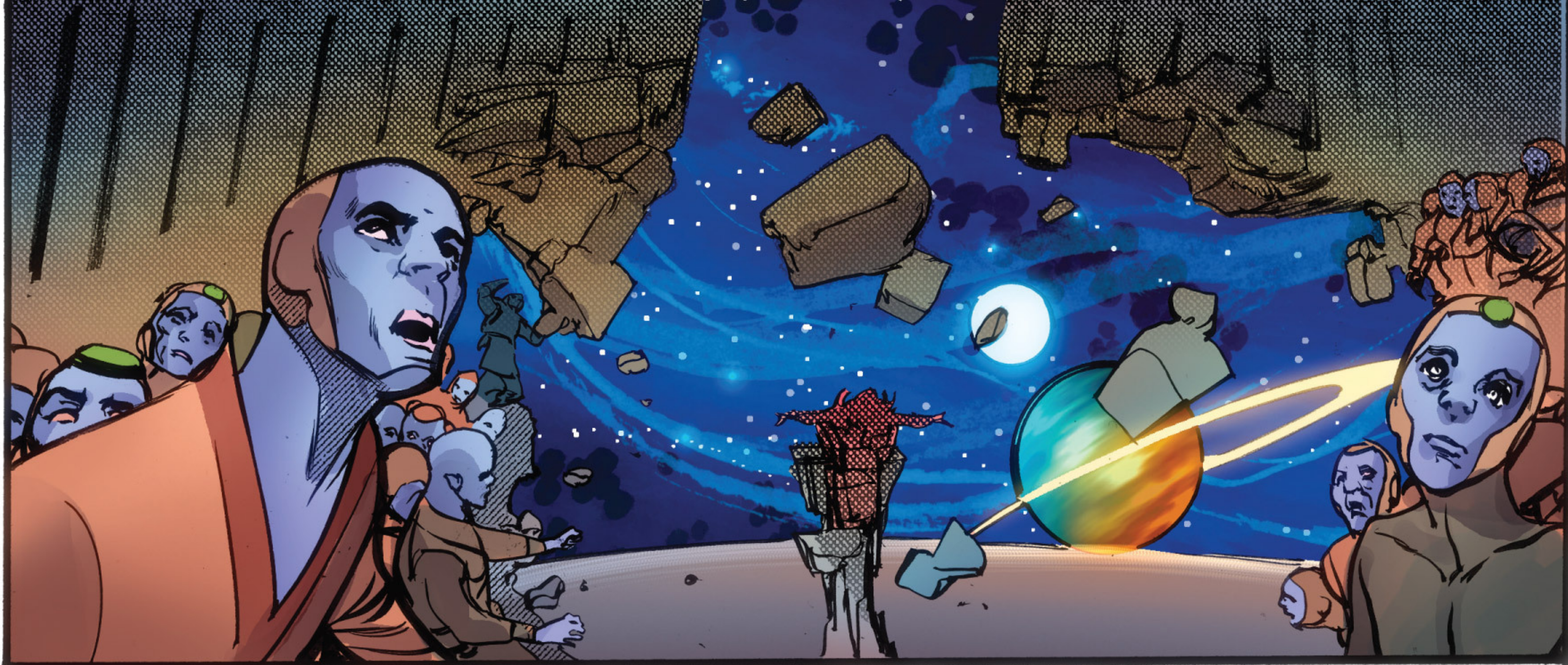


ARE...
ARE YOU
SURE?











THREE HUNDRED
THOUSAND YEARS AGO.

ACCUSER!

ACCUSER!

I AM
HERE.

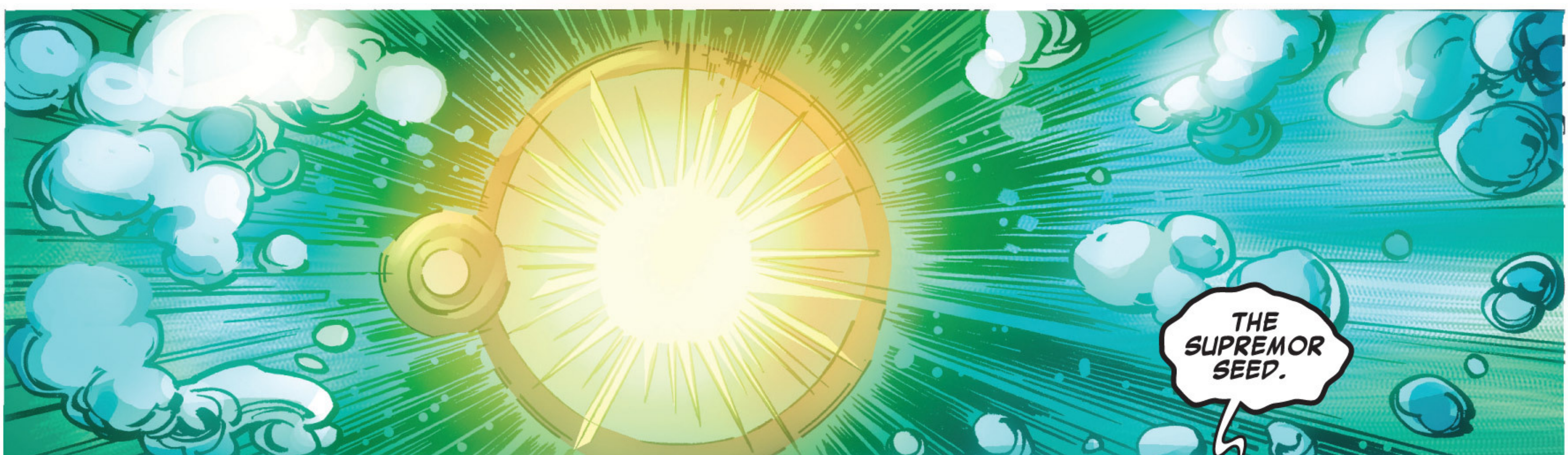
WHAT
TROUBLES YOU,
SUPREMOR?

I CAN
NO LONGER
DREAM.

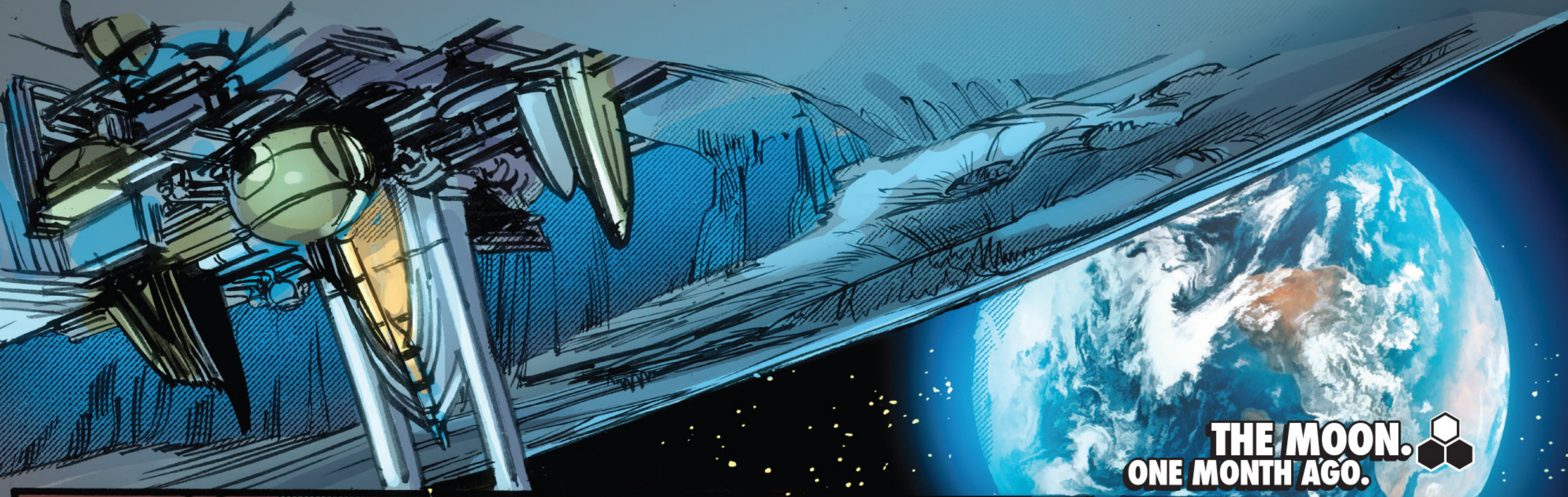
ALL I SEE
IS MY END. DEATH,
UNAVOIDABLE.

HE WAITS,
OUT THERE...IN
ALL POSSIBLE
FUTURES.

THERE WILL
COME A TIME WHEN
THERE IS NOTHING BUT
SILENCE...NO SOUNDS
TO BE HEARD, UNTIL
HE STARTS
SCREAMING.







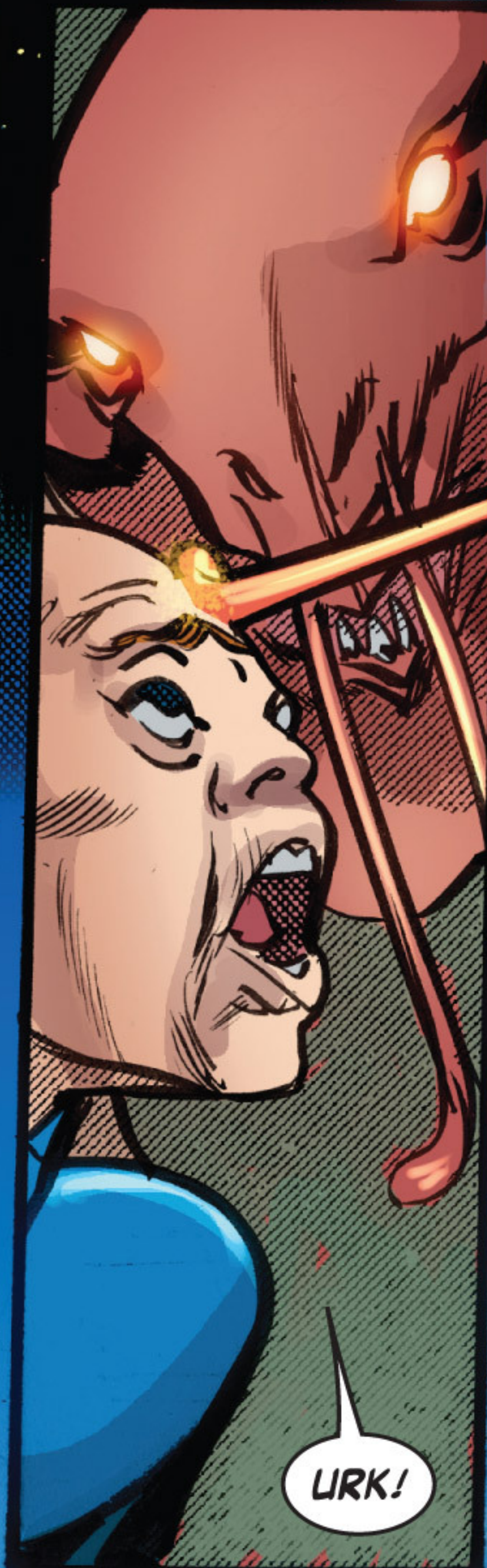
THE MOON.
ONE MONTH AGO.



NO!

THERE'S
NO NEED
TO...

I CAN
EXPLAIN IF
YOU...



URK!



HE...HE...
HE AND HIS
KIND POSE A VERY
REAL DANGER
TO US.

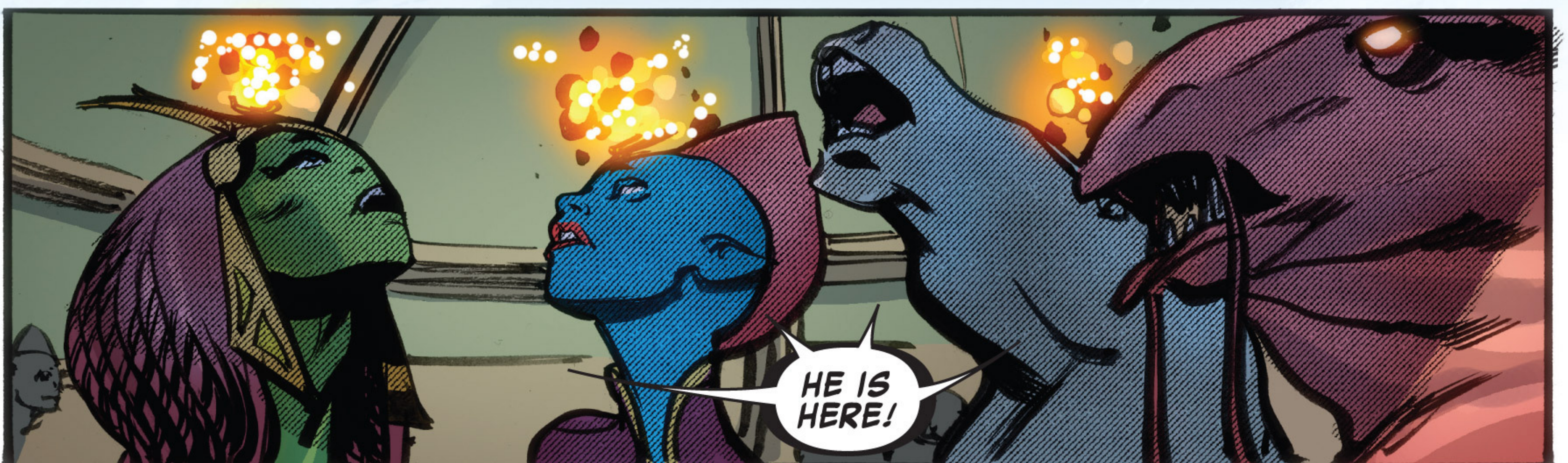
THEY
HAVE...GREAT
AND TERRIBLE
PLANS.



THEN WE
MUST MATCH
THEM.

WE
MUST...

OH!



HE IS
HERE!





THE
UNIVERSAL
INHUMANS.



BLACK
BOLT...THESE ARE
YOUR PEOPLE.

NOT
PRODUCTS OF
OUR OWN TERRIGENESIS,
BUT OF DIFFERENT AND
EQUALLY WONDERFUL
PROCESSES.

AND
THESE ARE YOUR
WIVES...



THE
MATRICARCH
OOLA UPONTA...
A PRODUCT OF
ISOGENESIS.

HUSBAND.



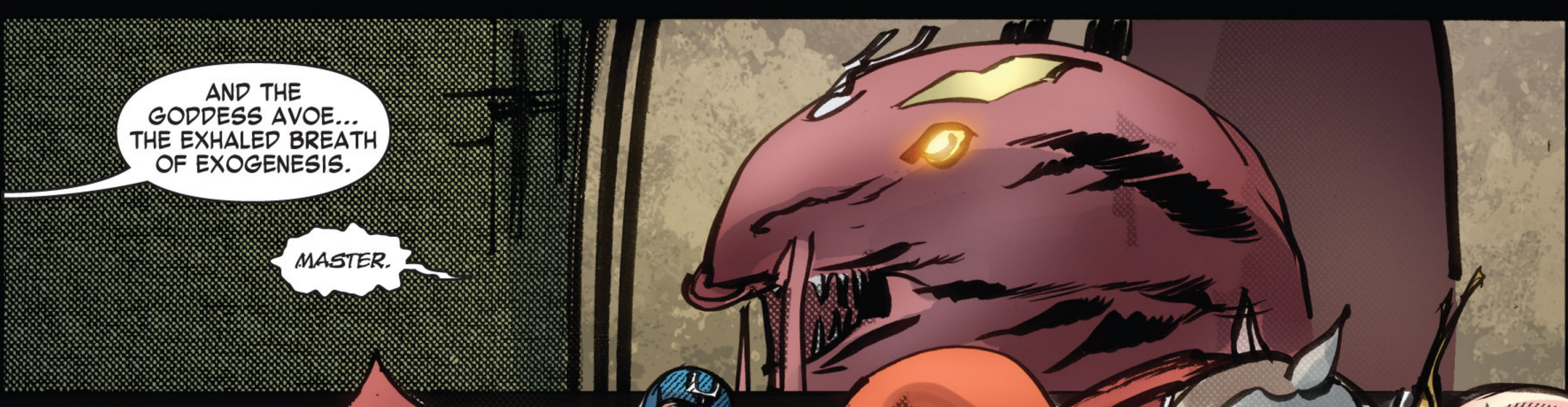
QUEEN
ALADI KO EKE...
WHO EMERGED FROM
AMPHOGENESIS.

IF YOU
ARE ABLE, WE
WILL HAVE
SONS.



FIRST CHAIR
ONOMI WHITEMANE...
THE BLOOM OF THE
ANTIGEN TREE.

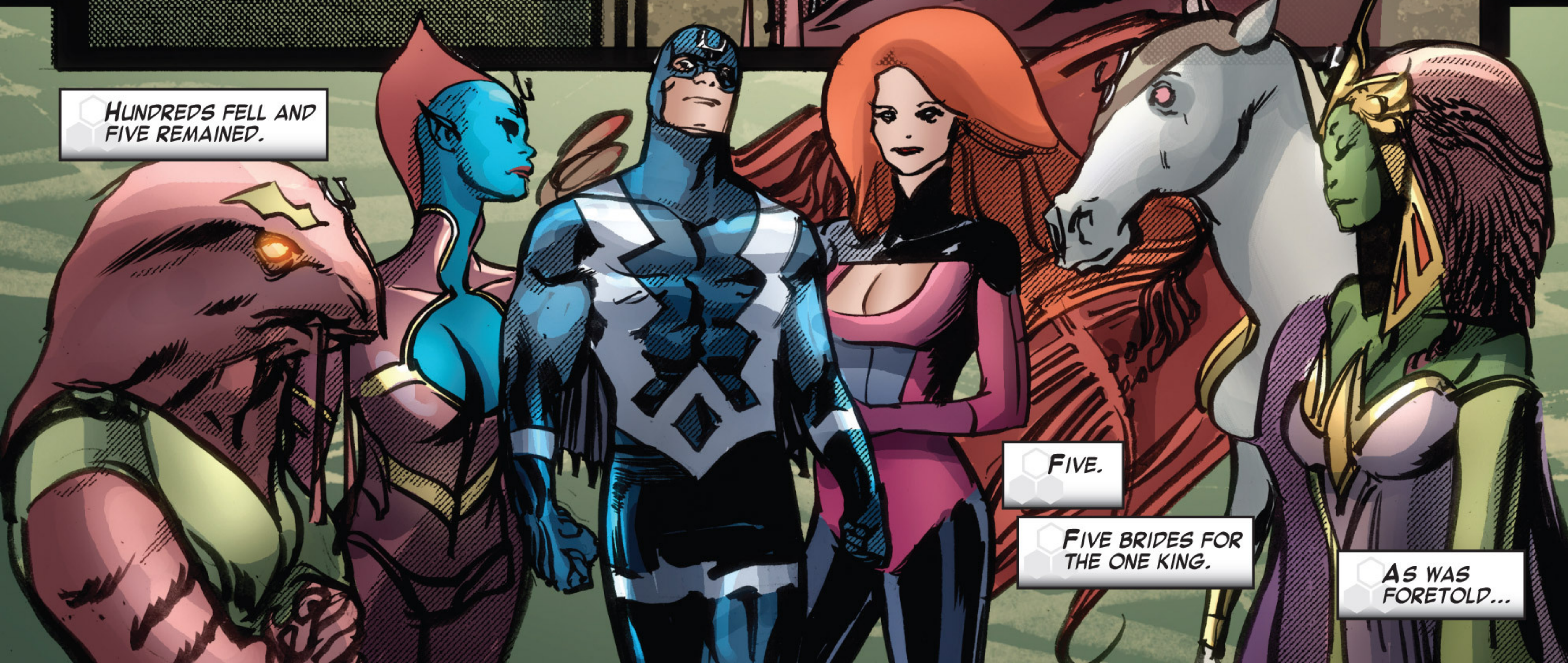
MY
LORD.



AND THE
GODDESS AVOE...
THE EXHALED BREATH
OF EXOGENESIS.

MASTER.

HUNDREDS FELL AND
FIVE REMAINED.



FIVE.

FIVE BRIDES FOR
THE ONE KING.

AS WAS
FORETOLD...

A GENETIC
PROPHECY.

ONE WILL COME WHOSE VOICE
WILL SHAKE WORLDS AND MAKE
THE UNIVERSE TREMBLE.

A MIGHTY VOICE THAT
WILL RULE IN SILENCE.



BUT IN THAT SILENCE,
ONE WORD WILL HANG
IN THE AIR.

ONE WORD,
UNSPOKEN.



WAR.



NEXT ISSUE:



VILLAINS UNITE!

HICKMAN

•

EPTING

•

MOUNTS

TM



MARVEL

8

VAL INADVERTENTLY RELEASED THE **LAST FOUR REEDS** OF THE INTERDIMENSIONAL COUNCIL INTO OUR UNIVERSE. IN ORDER TO RETURN TO THEIR OWN DIMENSION, THE REEDS INTEND TO BRING ABOUT THE WAR OF THE FOUR CITIES. THE FF HAVE GATHERED TOGETHER THEIR MOST INTELLIGENT FOES TO PLAN A COUNTER-STRATEGY AGAINST THE REEDS. **ATTILAN**, CITADEL OF THE **INHUMANS**, HAS APPEARED ABOVE EARTH WITH **BLACK BOLT**--BELIEVED DEAD--SITTING UPON THE THRONE.



REED RICHARDS,
MISTER FANTASTIC



SUSAN RICHARDS,
THE INVISIBLE WOMAN



BENJAMIN GRIMM,
THE THING



SPIDER-MAN



VALERIA RICHARDS



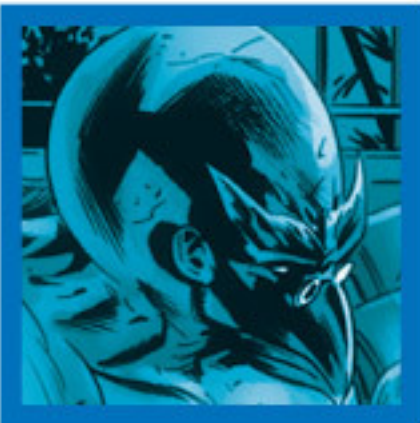
FRANKLIN RICHARDS



NATHANIEL RICHARDS



DOCTOR DOOM



DRAGON MAN



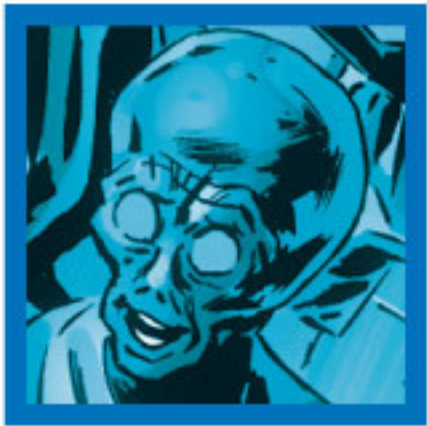
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TONG



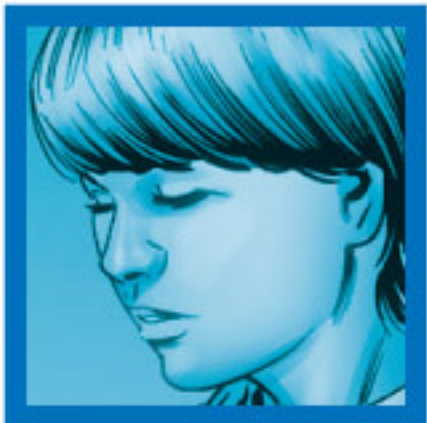
LEECH



ARTIE



BENTLEY



ALEX POWER

WRITER: **JONATHAN HICKMAN**

ARTIST: **STEVE EPTING**

COLOR ARTIST: **PAUL MOUNTS**

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 THE FOREVER CITY OF
THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY.

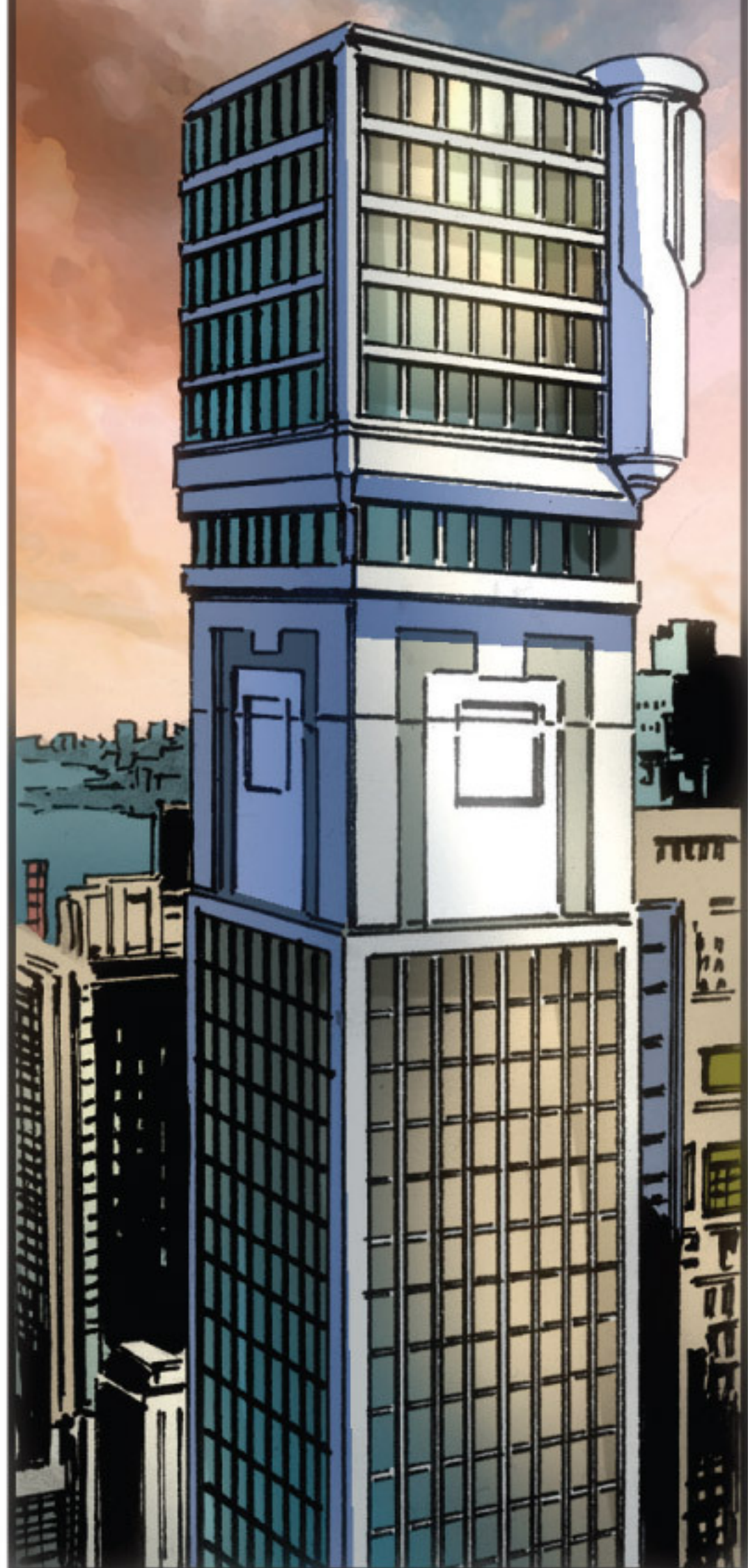




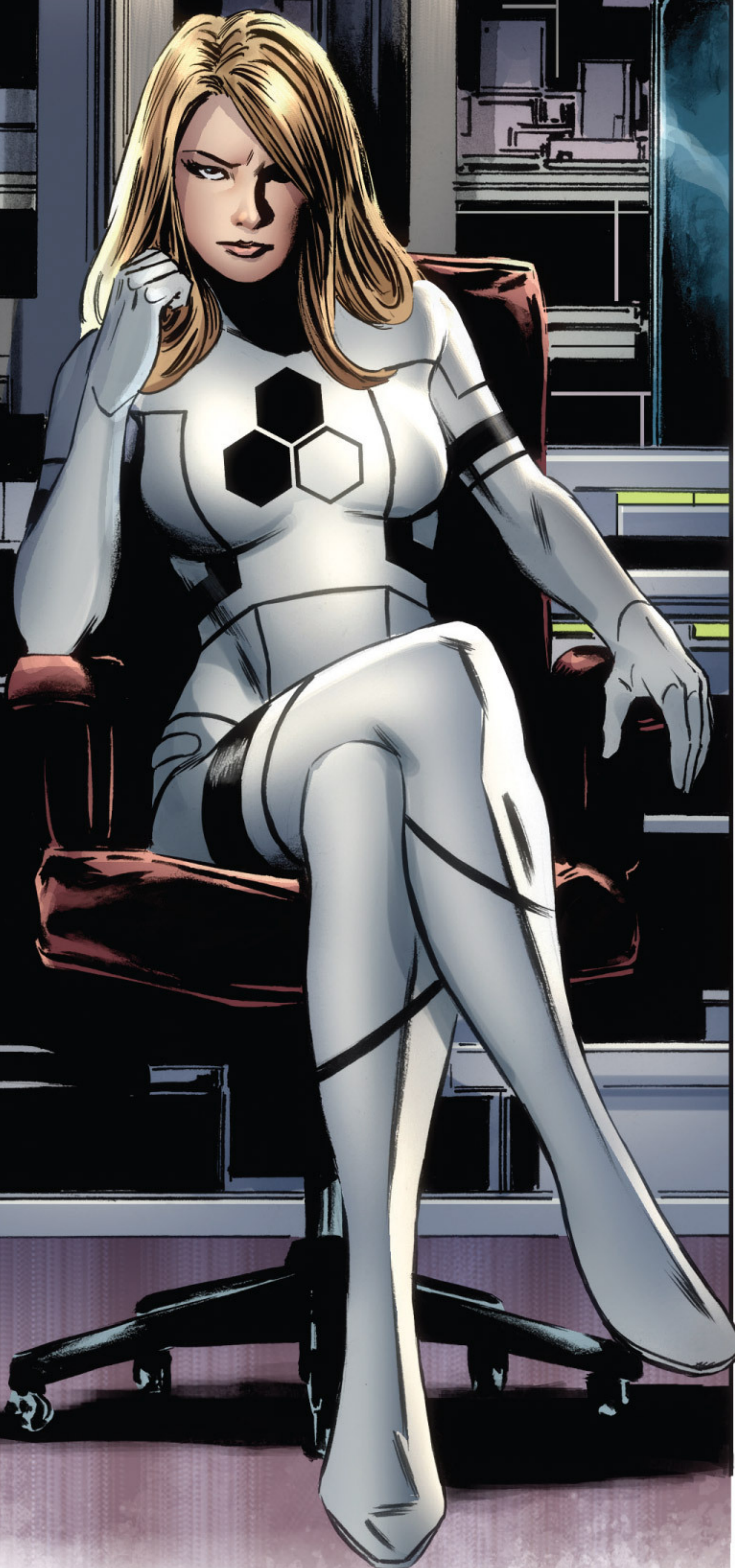
IT ALWAYS
COMES TO
THIS...



THE BAXTER BUILDING.



SO...
I THINK IT'S
TIME WE HAD
A CHAT.



WHAT'S
ON YOUR MIND,
SUSAN?



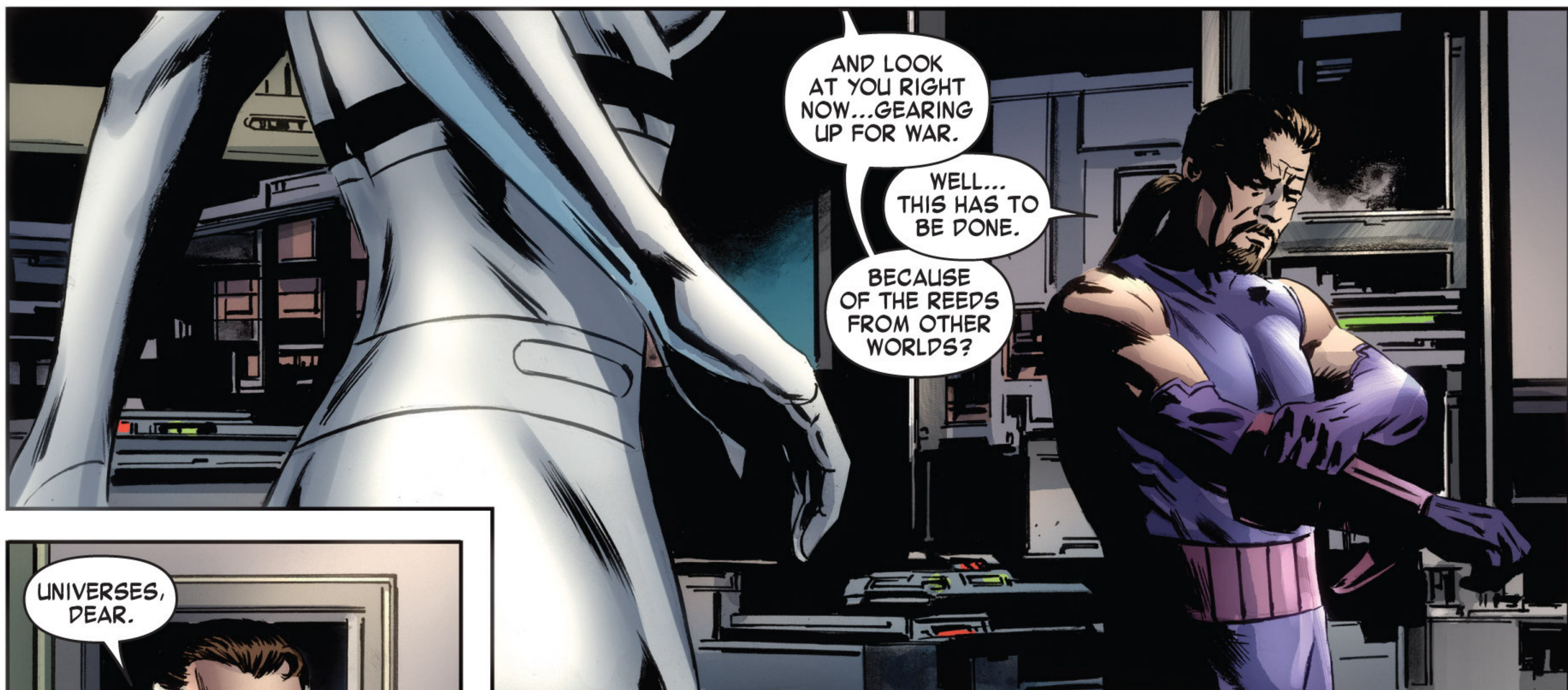
FIRST, I'M
HAPPY YOU'RE
HERE, NATHANIEL.
WE ALL ARE.

BUT, WHILE
REED MAY TRUST
YOU IMPLICITLY, I DON'T
CARE THAT YOU COME FROM
THE FUTURE...I FIND MYSELF
STRUGGLING WITH JUST
DOING WHAT YOU SAY
'NEEDS TO BE
DONE'.



LIKE?







THAT YOU
REBUILT THE BRIDGE
YOU WERE SUPPOSED
TO DESTROY.

YES.

THAT LED
YOU TO THE COUNCIL.
WHERE OTHER YOUS ABANDON
THEIR FAMILIES SO THAT THEY
CAN FOCUS ON BIGGER, MORE
IMPORTANT THINGS, LIKE
SAVING WORLDS.

I DID.

AND THAT
THEY GOT LOOSE
HERE BECAUSE YOUR
DAUGHTER WAS ABLE
TO BREAK INTO YOUR
IMPENETRABLE
LAB.



YEAH, DAD...
I TOLD HER ALL
OF IT.



WELL, THAT'S
GOOD, SON...A
MAN SHOULDN'T KEEP
SECRETS FROM
HIS WIFE.

SO...
GETTING BACK
ON POINT, HOW
AGAIN IS ANY
OF THIS MY
FAULT?



FINE,
NATHANIEL.
FINE.

WHAT ABOUT
VICTOR?

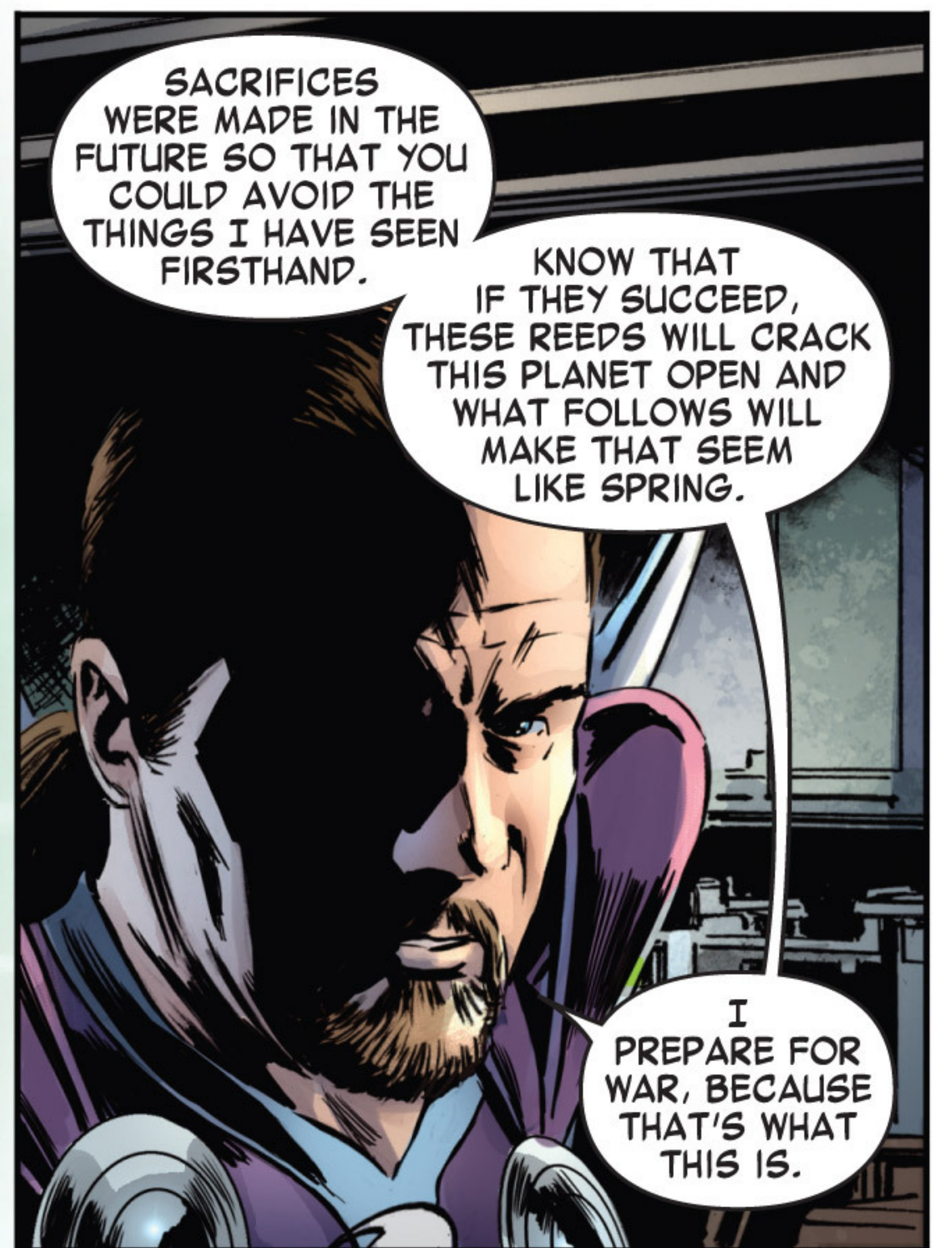
YOU WANT
TO TELL ME WHY
DOCTOR DOOM
HAS TO BE
WITH US?



NO,
SUSAN...I
DO NOT.

HERE'S
WHAT I WILL
TELL YOU,
THOUGH.

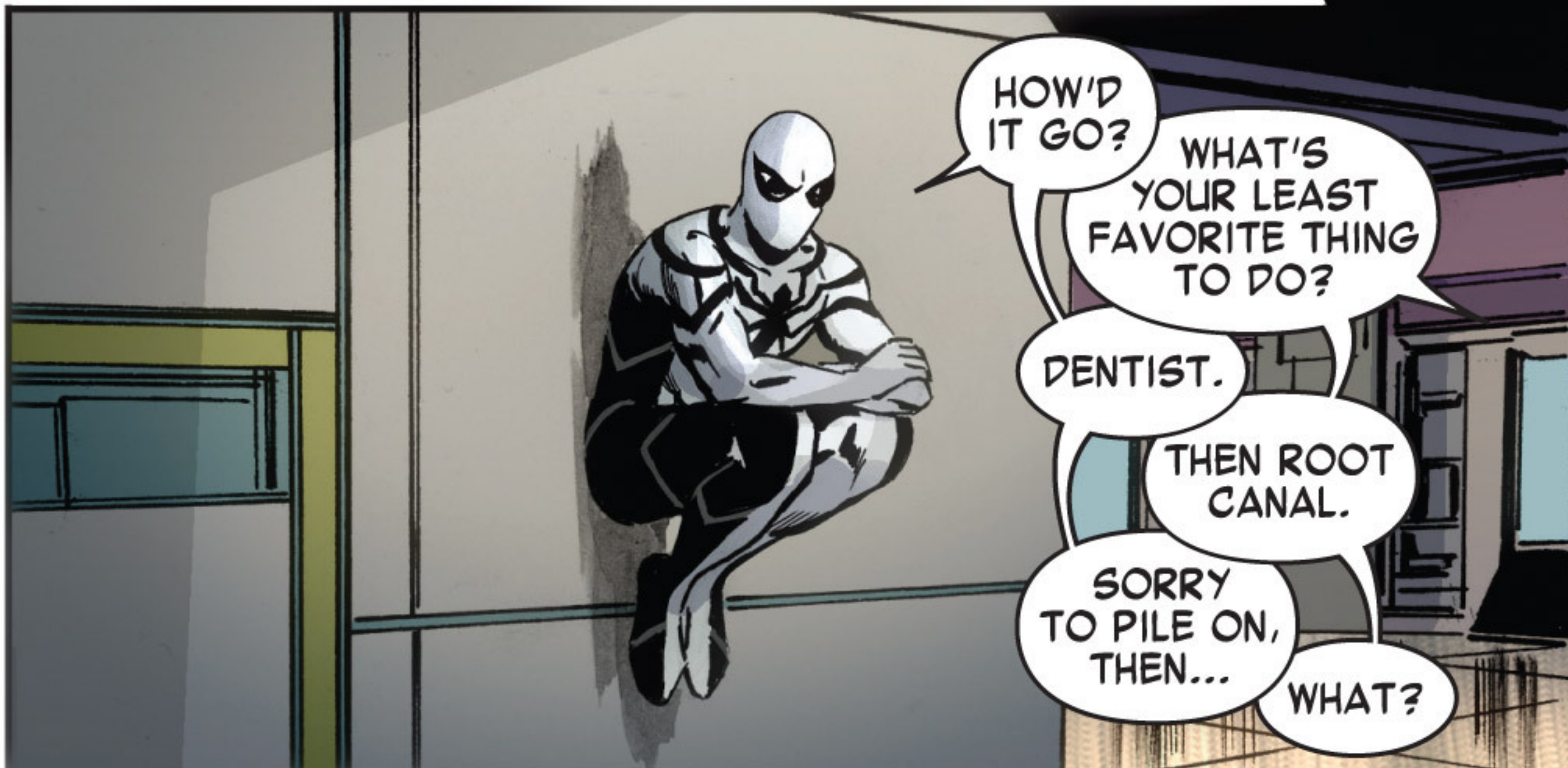
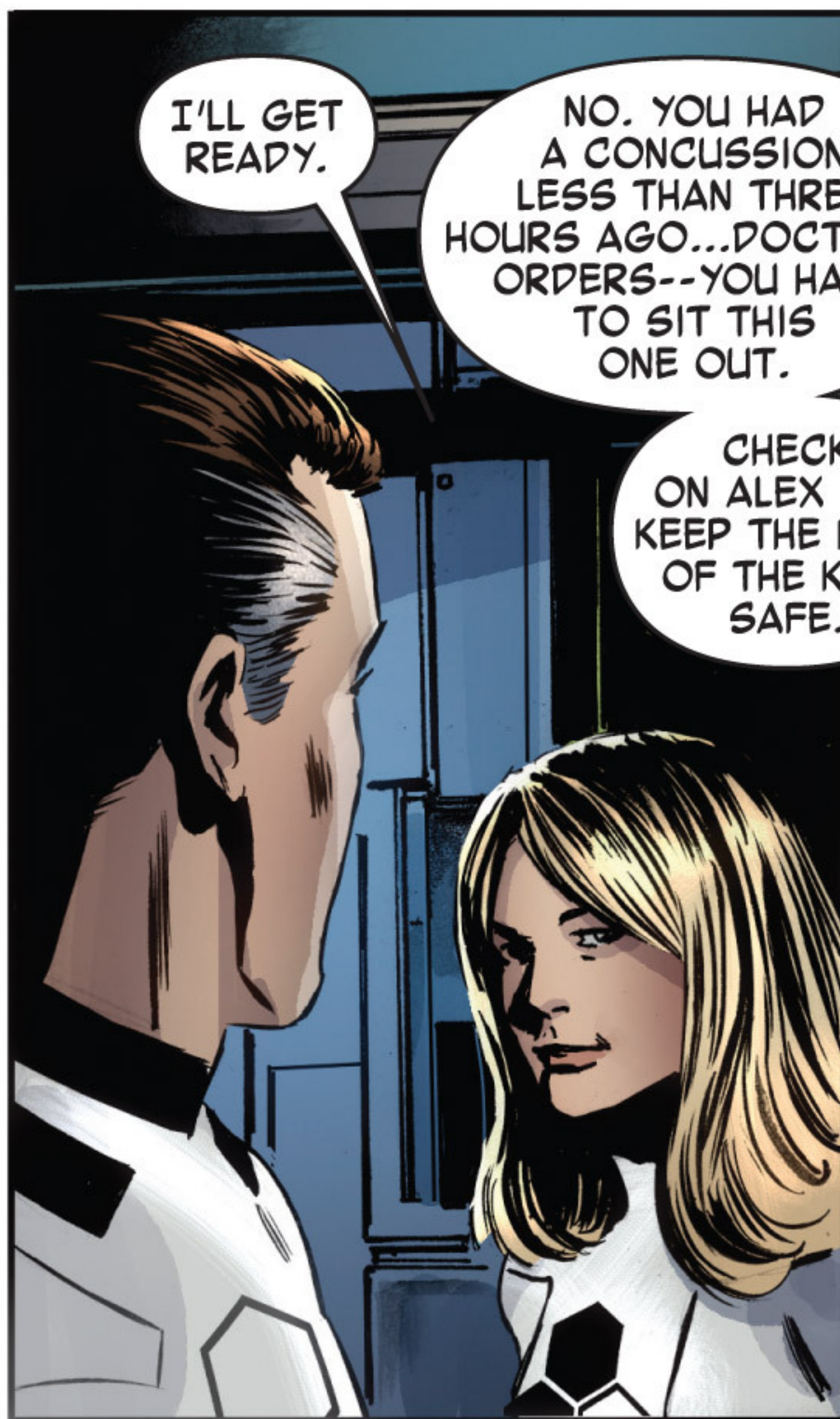
KHUU-CHUNK

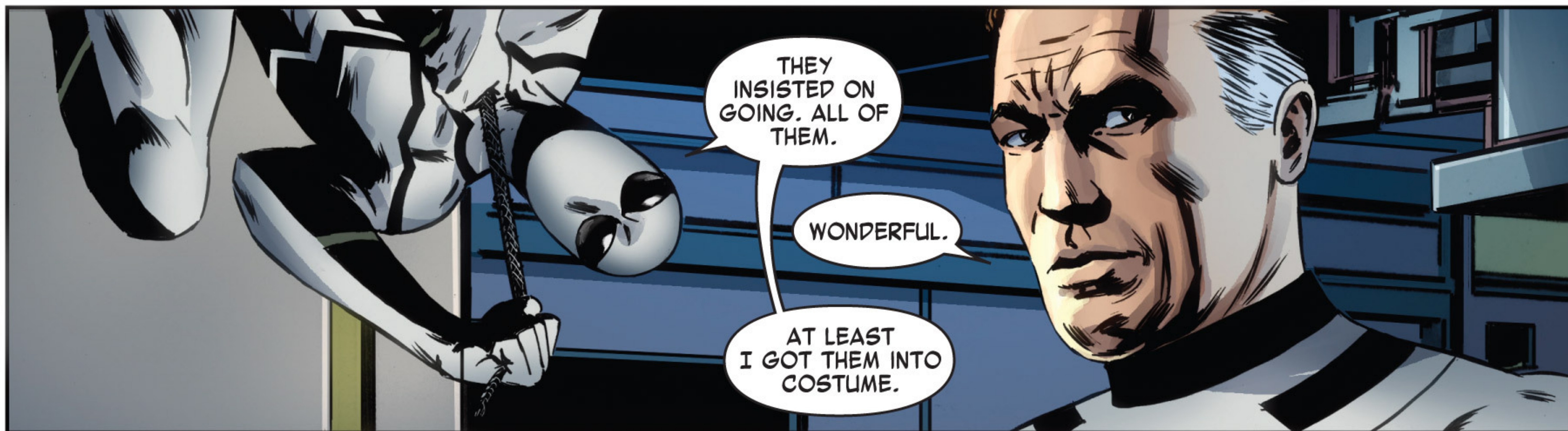


SACRIFICES
WERE MADE IN THE
FUTURE SO THAT YOU
COULD AVOID THE
THINGS I HAVE SEEN
FIRSTHAND.

KNOW THAT
IF THEY SUCCEED,
THESE REEDS WILL CRACK
THIS PLANET OPEN AND
WHAT FOLLOWS WILL
MAKE THAT SEEM
LIKE SPRING.

I
PREPARE FOR
WAR, BECAUSE
THAT'S WHAT
THIS IS.





THEY
INSISTED ON
GOING. ALL OF
THEM.

WONDERFUL.

AT LEAST
I GOT THEM INTO
COSTUME.



REED
RICHARDS...

WELCOME
TO THE FUTURE
FOUNDATION.

THE FOREVER CITY. 



MY
GOD...THAT'S
ATTILAN.

THE
INHUMANS HAVE
RETURNED.

BETTER
SPORT
THEN...

"TAKE US IN,
RICHARDS."





VICTOR, THE PROTECTIVE SPELL NEEDS TO KEEP OUT THE ASCENSION ENGINE'S--

I KNOW WHAT TO DO, RICHARDS.

WE ARE SHIELDED FROM THE RADIATION.



HOW LONG DO WE HAVE?

THE SPELL WILL HOLD.



OKAY... AS WE DISCUSSED... WE HAVE TO STOP THE ALTERNATE VERSIONS OF MYSELF.

YOU KNOW YOUR GROUPS?

WUH-WUH- WHAT DO YOU WANT US TO DO WHEN WE FIND TH-TH-TH- THEM?

WHY ASK THAT QUESTION?

JUST KILL THEM AND BE DONE WITH IT.

RISKY. WHO CAN KNOW WHAT LIES IN THEIR HEARTS? REMEMBER, FOR THE RIGHTEOUS, HEAVEN IS A REWARD.

ALSO-- FOOLISH...WE NEED INFORMATION.

ONLY KILL TWO.



DR. RICHARDS, THEY HAVE ALSO ALTERED MY ENGINE... IT WILL HAVE TO BE DISABLED.

I WILL HANDLE THAT.



OKAY... NOW...

LET'S GO.



OOOOFFF!

YOU
REMEMBER WHO
I AM?

YES,
MAKER.

PLEASE
TAKE ME TO THE
MACHINE.



LIHHH,
SHOULDN'T
WE HAVE SPLIT UP
TO KEEP AN EYE
ON THOSE
GUYS?

I THOUGHT
OF THAT, BUT THE
ODDS OF ONE OF THEM
TURNING ON US WAS
STATISTICALLY
SIGNIFICANT.

DO ANY
OF YOU TRUST
THEM?

I'M
MORE CONCERNED
ABOUT THE
INHUMANS...WHAT
ARE THEY DOING
HERE?



THEY SEEM
UNAFFECTED BY
THE ENGINE.

CONTROLLED
EVOLUTION,
TERRIGENESIS...
SELECTIVE
BREEDING.

COULD BE
ANY NUMBER OF
THINGS. BUT I'M
GUES--

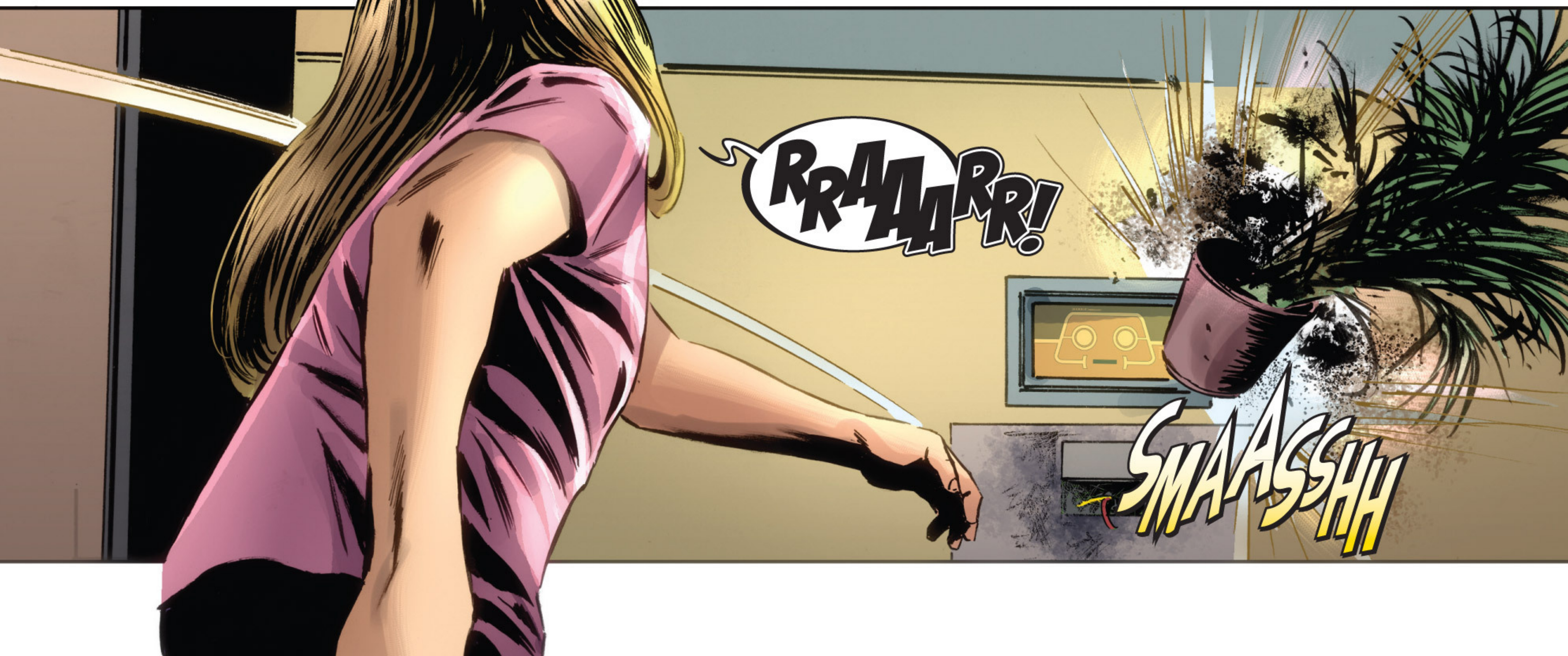
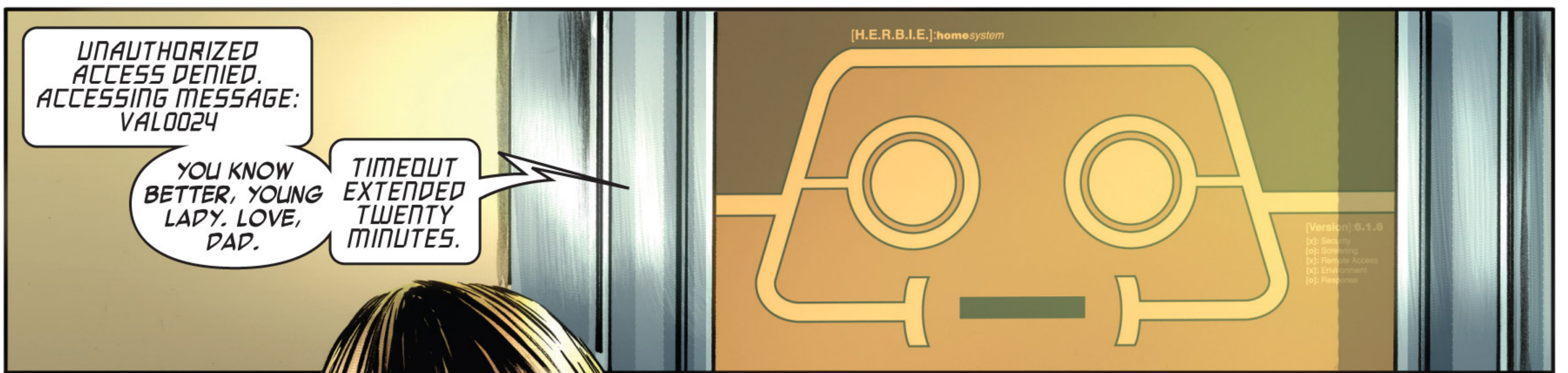


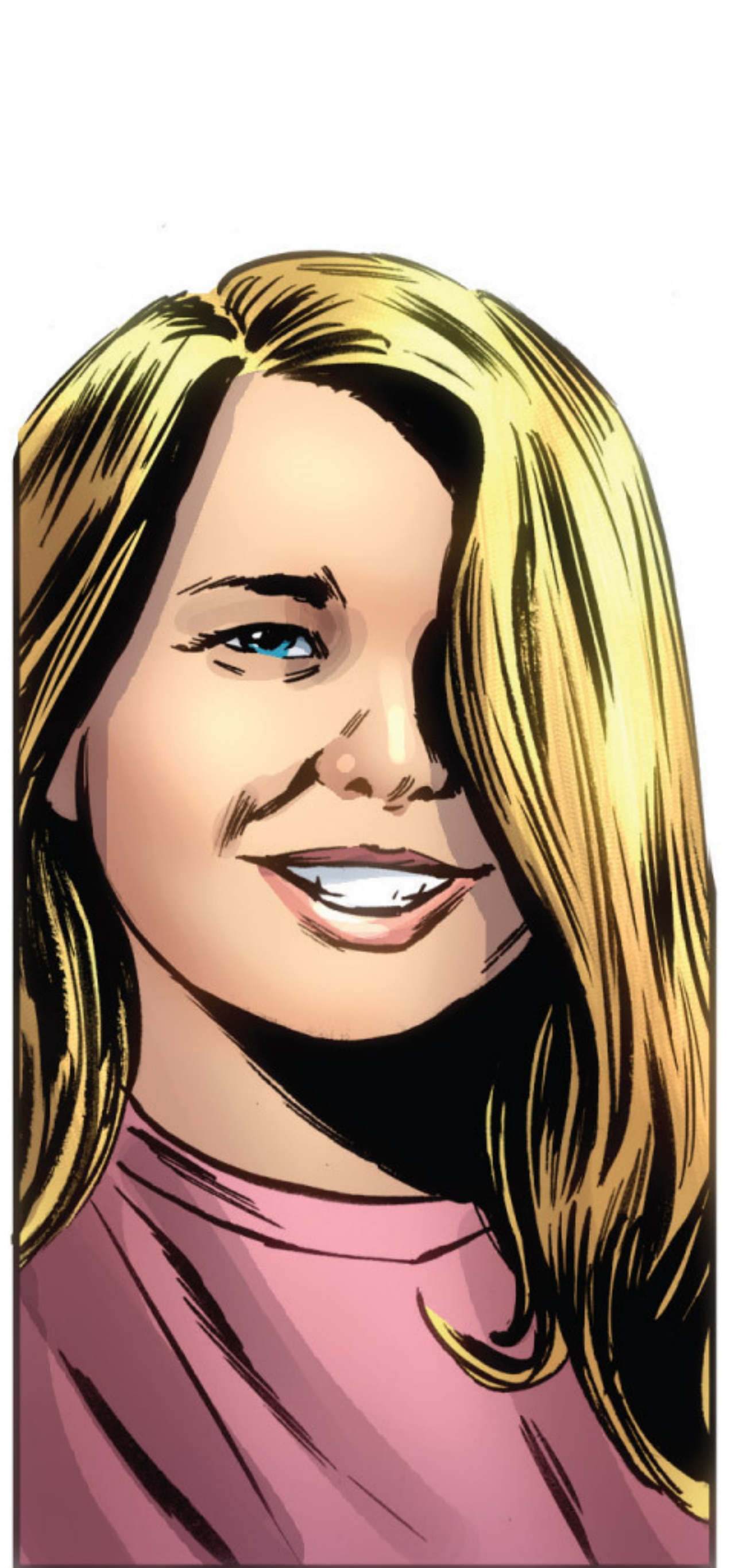
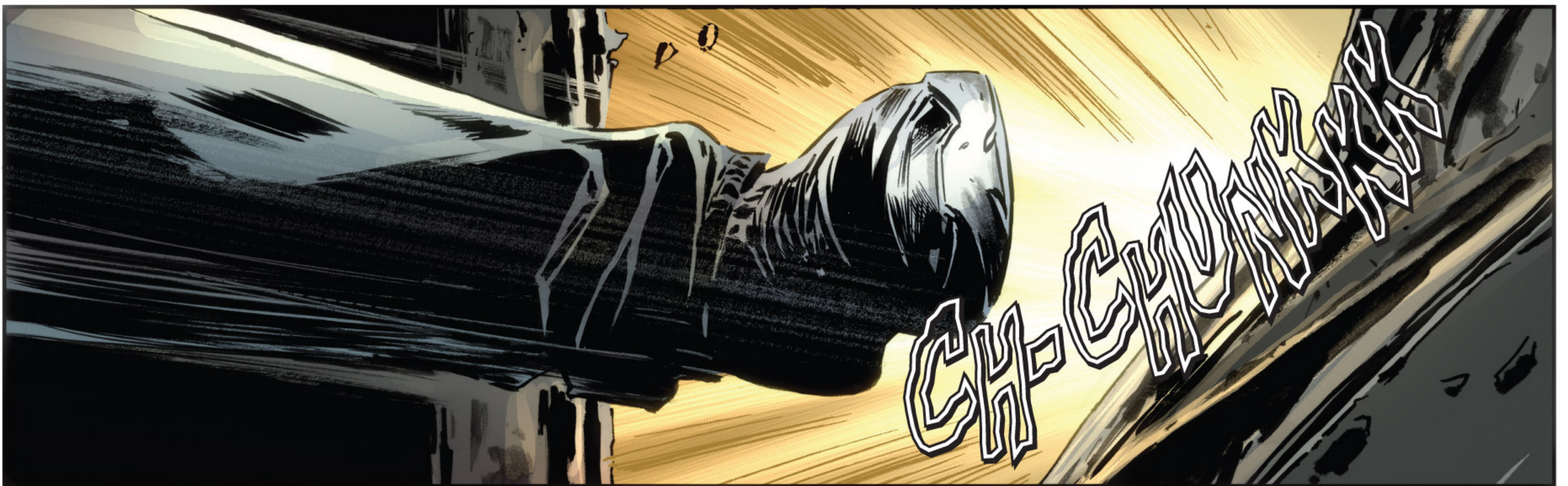
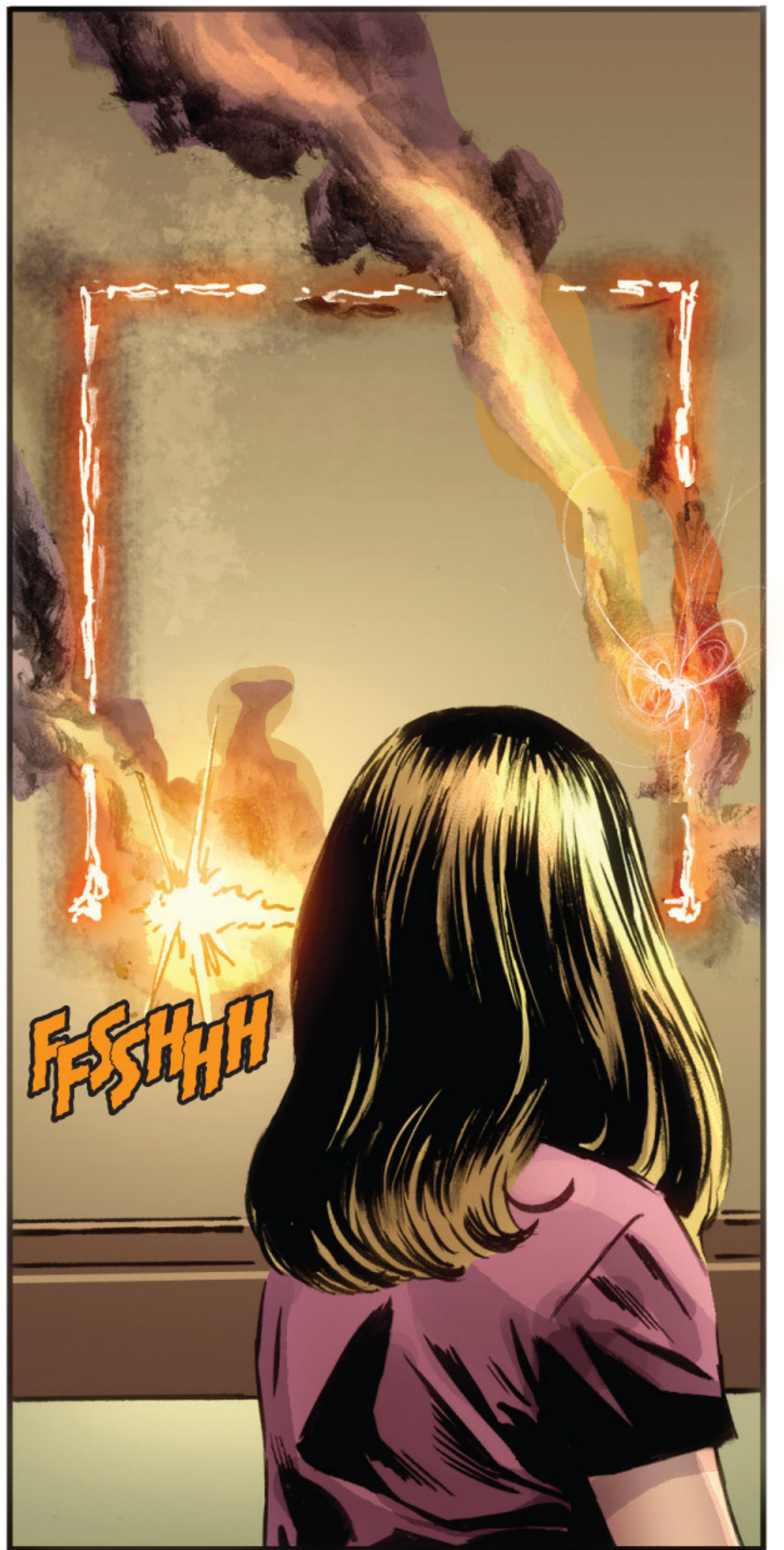
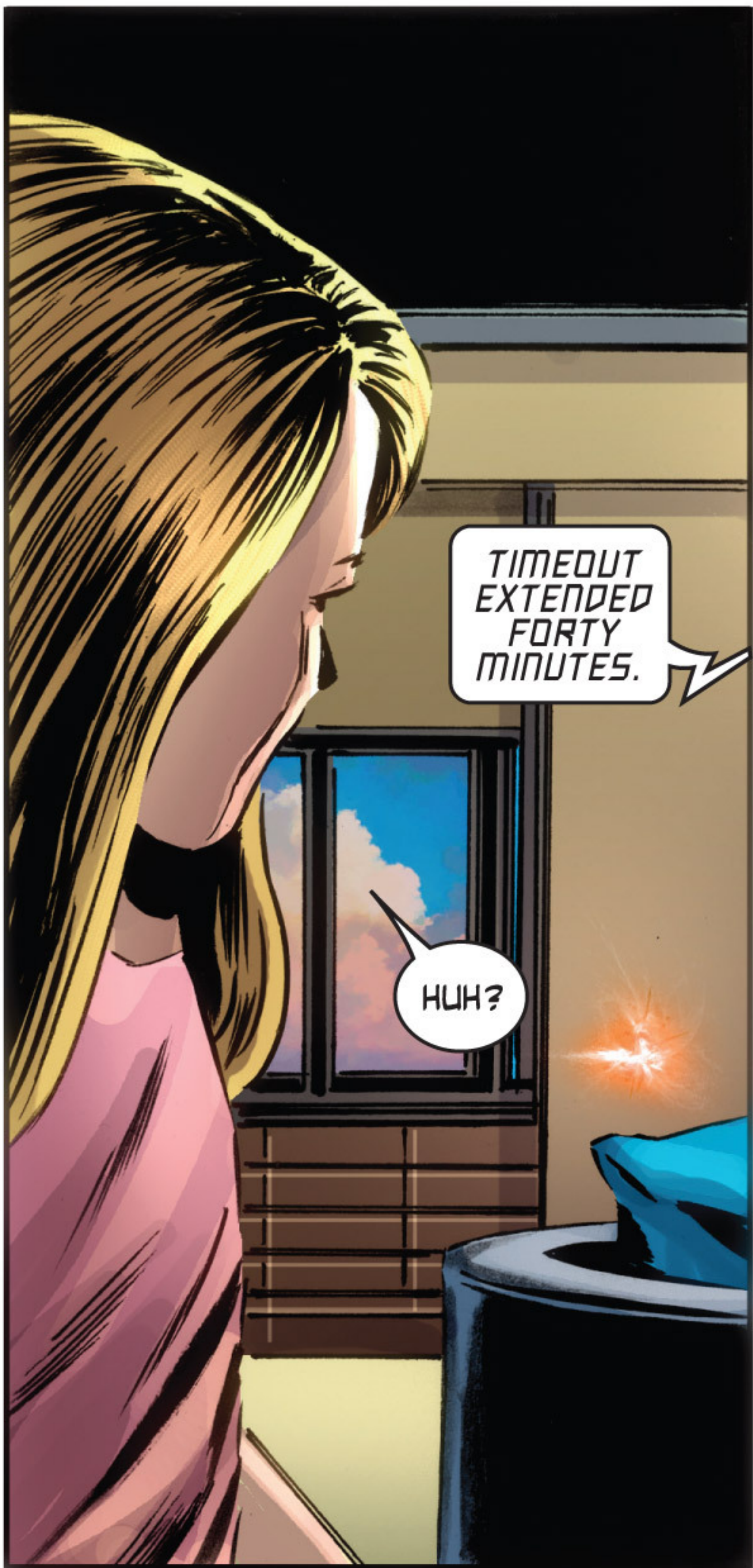
HEY! DO
YOU HEAR
THAT?

IMPOSSIBLE...

"I THOUGHT
BLACK BOLT
WAS DEAD."







THE FOREVER CITY.

I AM NOT AFRAID OF PERSECUTION...

I AM NOT AFRAID OF PERSECUTION...

HAVE YOU HEARD THE GOOD NEWS?

WE'RE

THE WIZARD JUST WENT DOWN.

GOOD.

HOW ARE YOU HOLDING UP, SPIDER-MAN?

WE'RE FINE.

THESE GUYS ACTUALLY MAKE A PRETTY GOOD BARRICADE.

CHECK OVER THERE, SON.



THAT'S IT,
CONCENTRATE
YOUR FIRE.

THERE'S
TRADITIONALLY
BEEN A WEAK SPOT
WHERE THE ALPHA
PRIMITIVE SUBSTRUCTURE
MEETS THE
MAIN--

WHAT!

Rakunabe



AH...A
DOOM!

YOU PICKED
THE WRONG DAY
TO INTERFERE WITH
OUR PLANS--

DO NOT
SPEAK AGAIN
UNLESS IT IS
TO ANSWER MY
QUESTIONS.

UNDERSTAND?

NOW...
WHAT DOES
YOUR WEAPON
DO?

HOW
DOES IT
WORK?

I'M NOT...
WHA?

EH?

ARRRRRGH!

FWAAASHHHH

LOOK AT THAT, DIABLO...HE DIDN'T ACCOUNT FOR THE VARIABLES. HE DIDN'T CONSIDER THE OPTIONS.

YOU HAVE TO FACTOR EVERYTHING IN BEFORE YOU CAN FACTOR US OUT. SOLVE FOR X, VICTOR! SOLVE FOR X!

OR YOU COULD JUST LAY THERE AND BURN.

JUST LIKE EVERYONE WILL.

JUST LIKE THE WORLD.





NEXT ISSUE!

BATTLE!

HICKMAN • EPTING • MAGYAR • MOUNTS

TM

MARVEL

9

726171
2011

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IN ORDER TO RETURN TO THEIR OWN DIMENSION, THE **LAST FOUR REEDS OF THE INTERDIMENSIONAL COUNCIL** INTEND TO BRING ABOUT THE **WAR OF THE FOUR CITIES**. THE **FF** HAVE GATHERED TOGETHER THEIR **MOST INTELLIGENT FOES** TO PLAN A COUNTER-STRATEGY AGAINST THE REEDS. THE RESURRECTED **BLACK BOLT** HAS LED THE **INHUMANS** IN AN ATTACK ON THE ASCENSION ENGINE IN THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY'S LOST CITY. THE **FF** ATTEMPT TO INTERCEDE, BUT AS THEY DO, **DOOM** IS AMBUSHED BY THE ASSEMBLED VILLAINS.



REED RICHARDS,
MISTER FANTASTIC



SUSAN RICHARDS,
THE INVISIBLE WOMAN



BENJAMIN GRIMM,
THE THING



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VALERIA RICHARDS



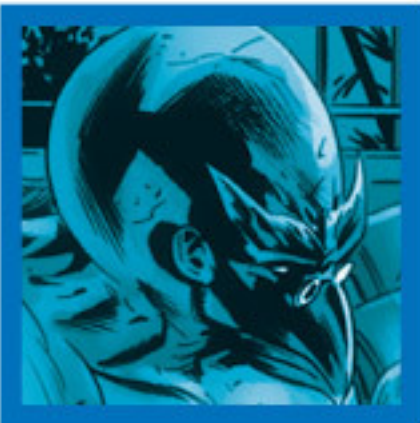
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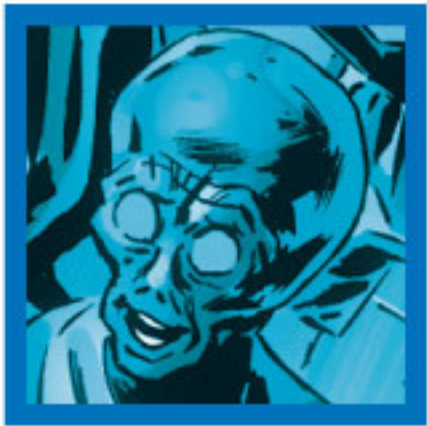
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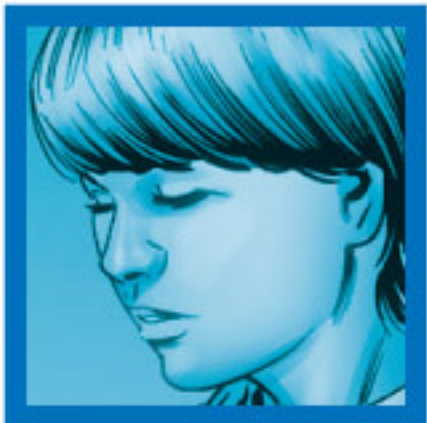
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ALEX POWER

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PENCILER: **STEVE EPTING**

INKER: **RICK MAGYAR**

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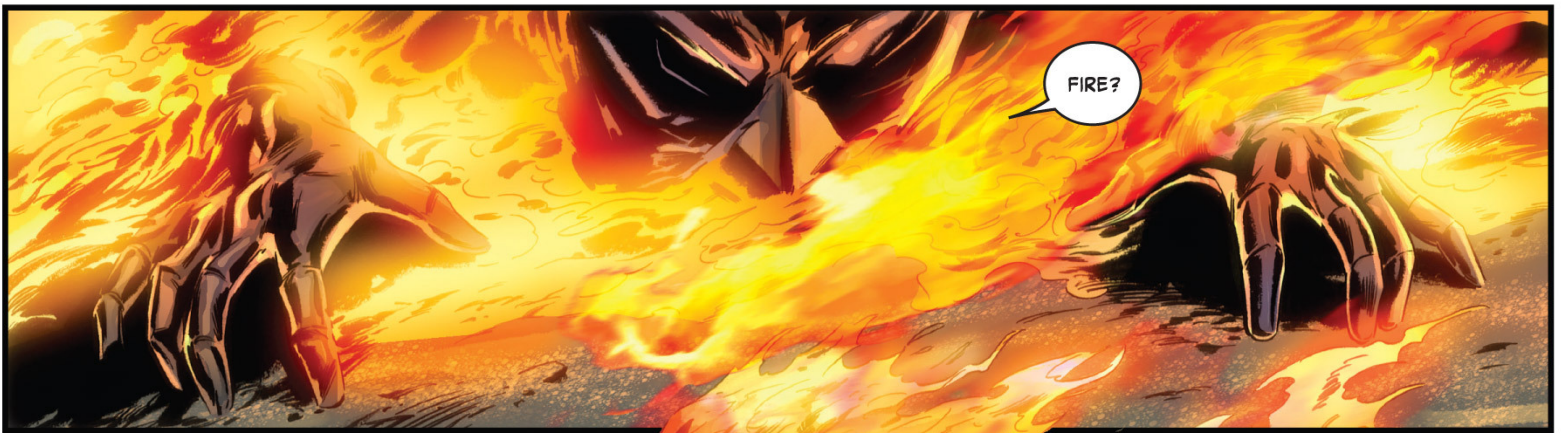
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THE
WORLD BE
DAMNED...
DOOM
ENDURES.



NOW...

URK!

WAIT, WAIT!

THIS IS
WRONG...ALL
WRONG...

YOU'RE FORGETTING SOMETHING,
VICTOR...THE *UNEXPECTED!*
THAT'S THE MISSING ELEMENT
HERE--IT'S WHAT THE STORY
IS MISSING.

YOU'VE GOT
TO DO WHAT NO
ONE COULD ANTICIPATE--
WHAT NO ONE WOULD SEE
COMING. THE VARIABLE IS
YOU, VICTOR...YOU HAVE
TO *SURPRISE*
US.

LET DIABLO
GO! LET HIM GO! THE
X-FACTOR IS *MERCY.*
WHO COULD PREDICT THAT?
VICTOR VON DOOM...THE
DOCTOR OF COMPASSION,
VICTOR THE
MAGNANIMOUS...

SHOCK THE
WORLD, VICTOR.
SHOCK THE
WORLD.



I
THINK
NOT.

ZZZAKKKK
ARRRGGHHH!



ATILAN
HOVERING ABOVE THE
HIGH EVOLUTIONARY'S
FOREVER CITY.

FINALE

OH, ATILAN...
HAVE YOU EVER HAD THE HONOR OF SEEING OUR GREAT CITY, NATHANIEL RICHARDS?
I HAVE, YOUR MAJESTY... BUT NEVER THIS QUAIN.

ONE THOUSAND YEARS FROM NOW, ATILAN IS MUCH LARGER.

FASCINATING.
AH, HERE THEY COME...

REED, THESE ARE MY NEW SISTERS...

ACTUALLY, WE'VE MET... THE WIVES OF OUR KING.

IT WAS ON THE MOON, AND SOON AFTER THEY DECLARED THE EARTH TO BE INHUMAN PROPERTY.

A CONVERSATION THAT NEEDS CLARIFYING, BUT TODAY WE HAVE MORE...PRESSING MATTERS.

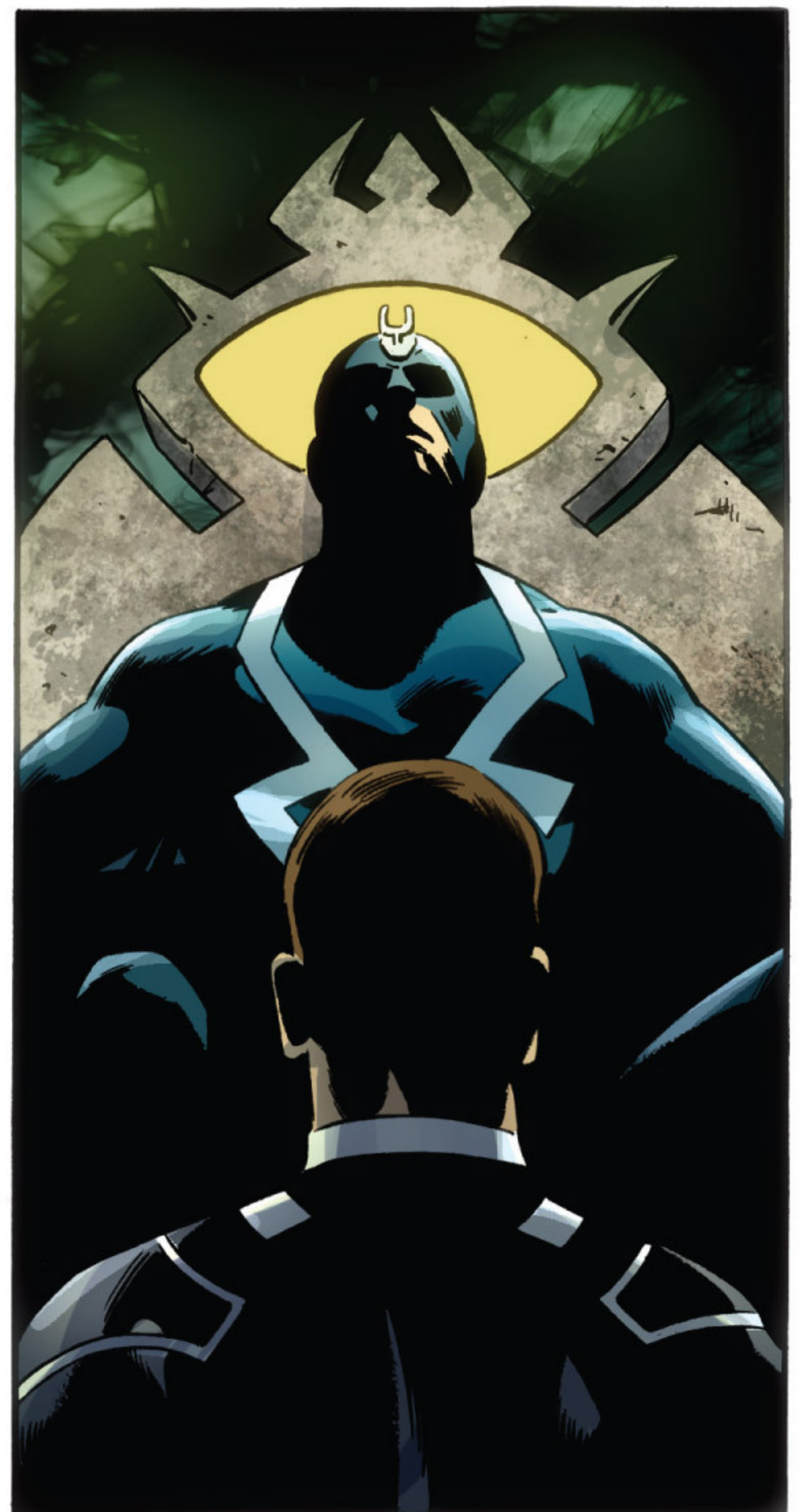
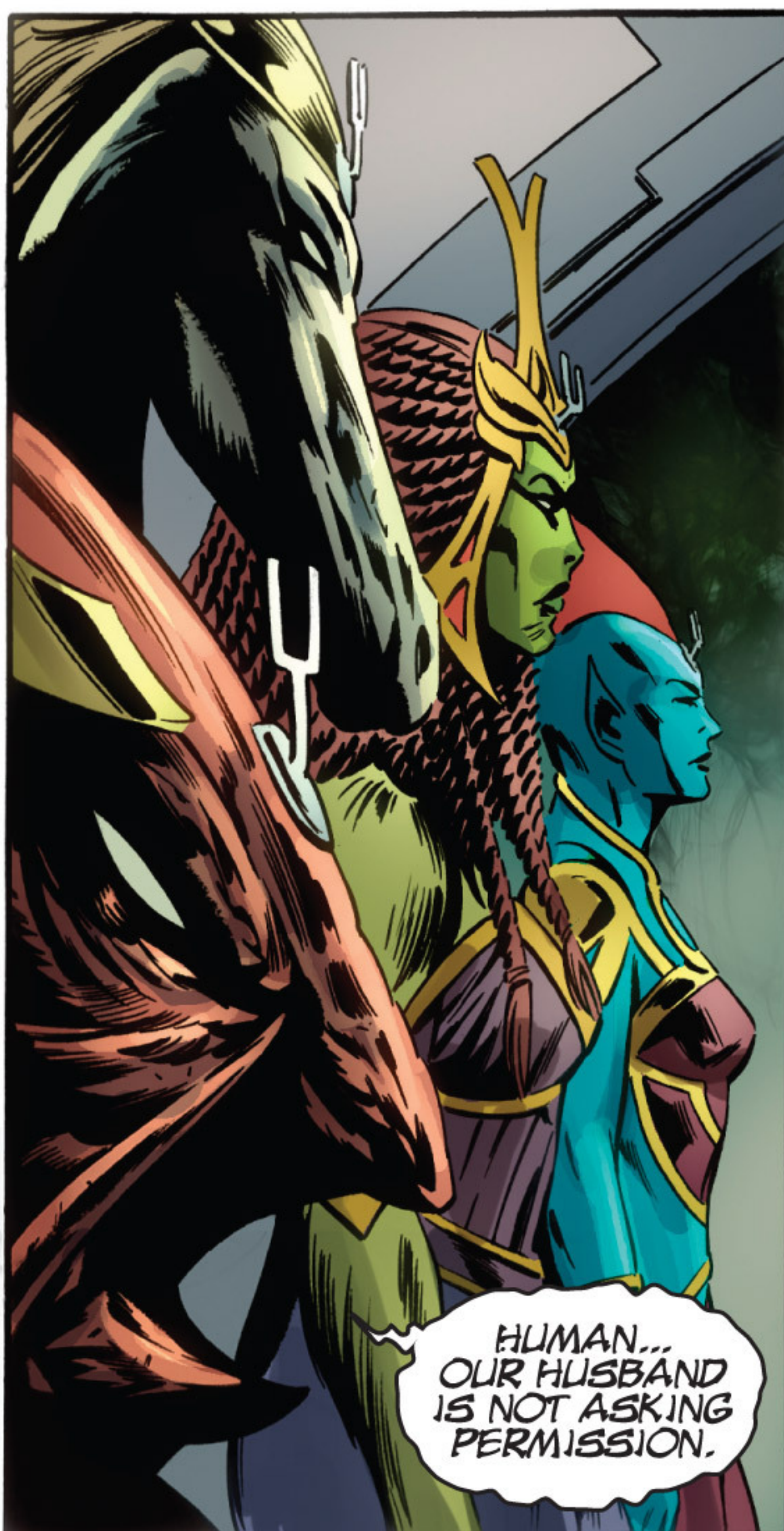
WHY HAVE YOU BROUGHT US HERE, MEDUSA?

THAT... IS A QUESTION FOR MY HUSBAND... WHO RETURNS HERE NOW.

BLACK BOLT...IT REALLY IS YOU.

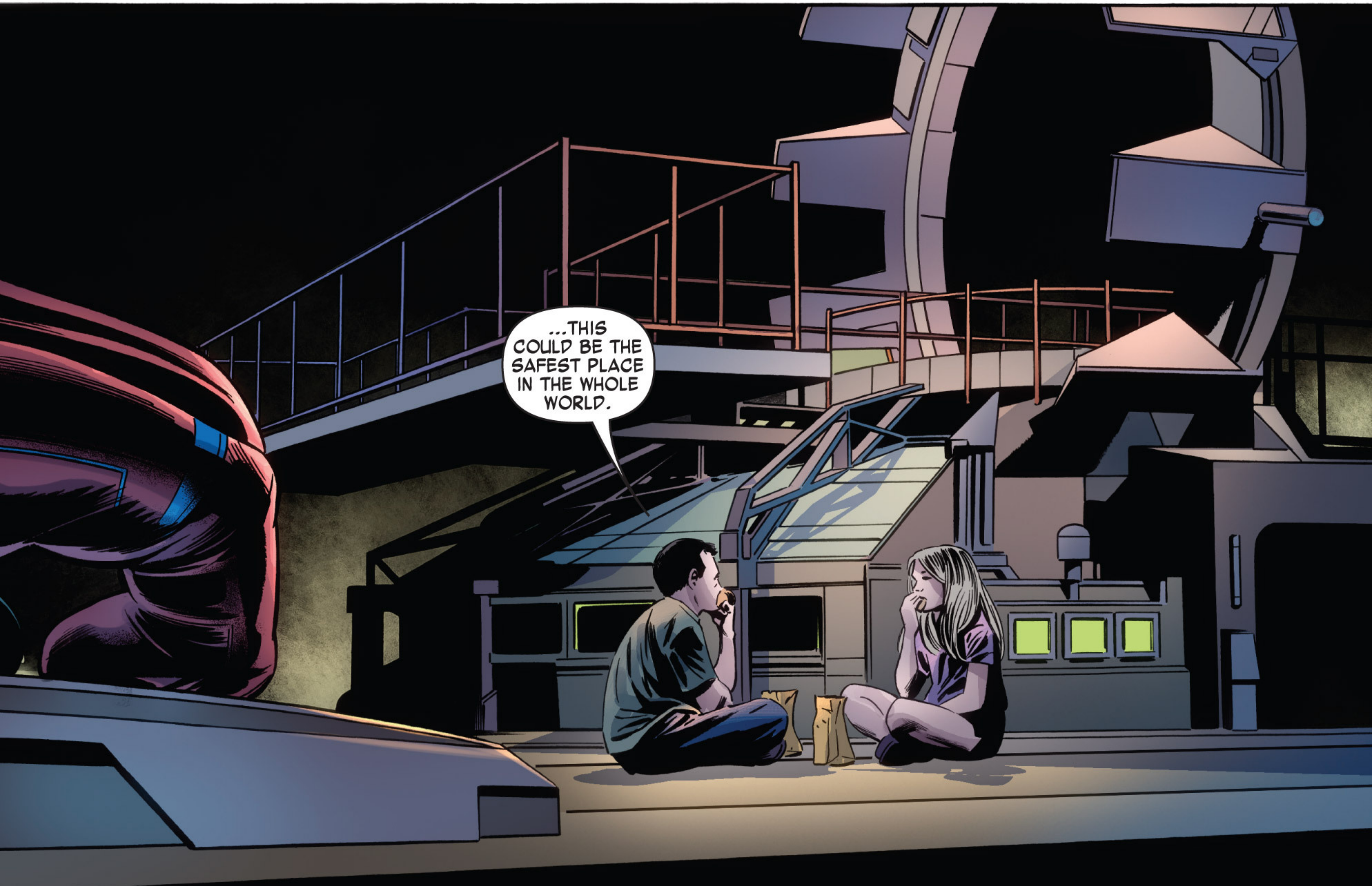
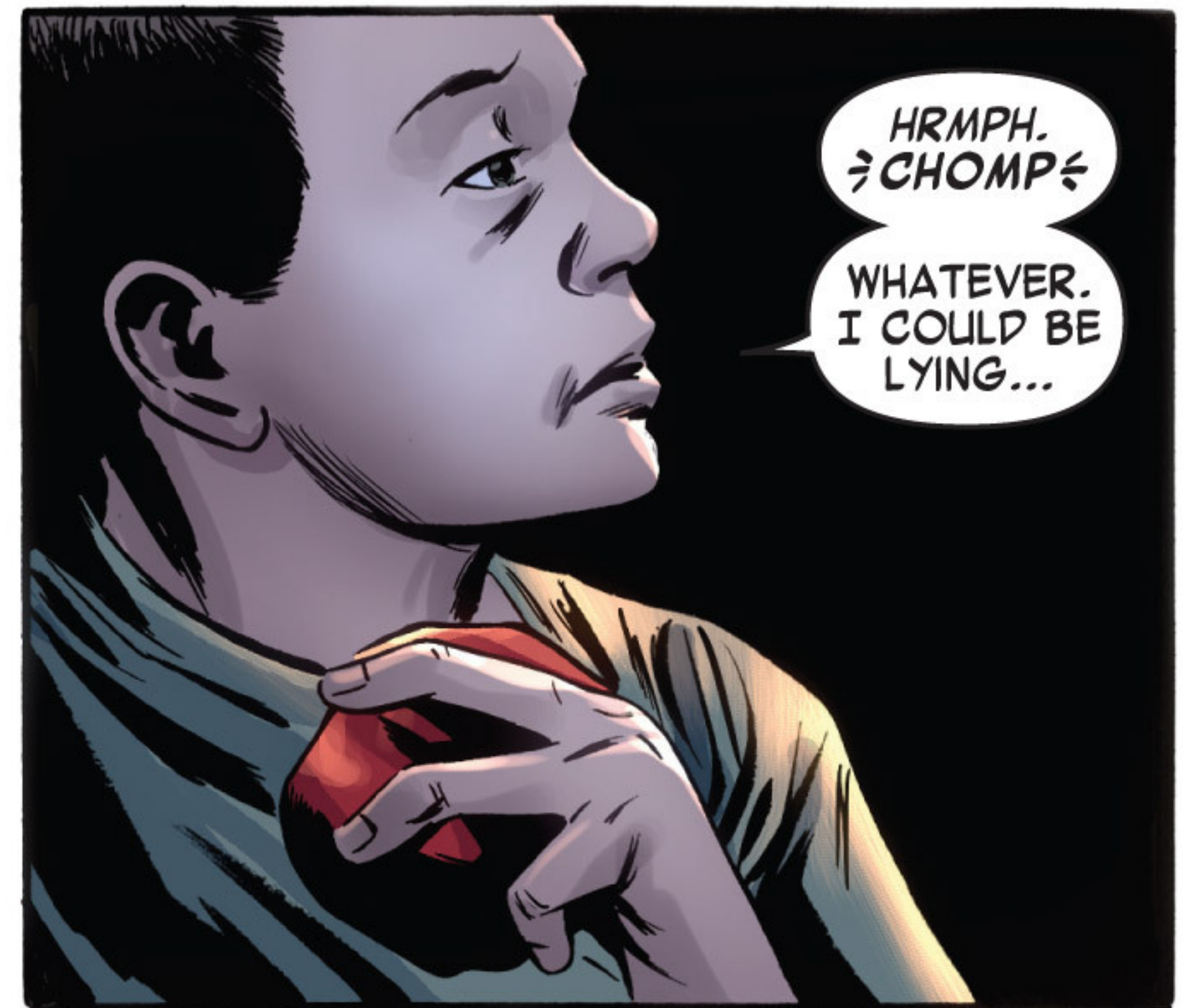
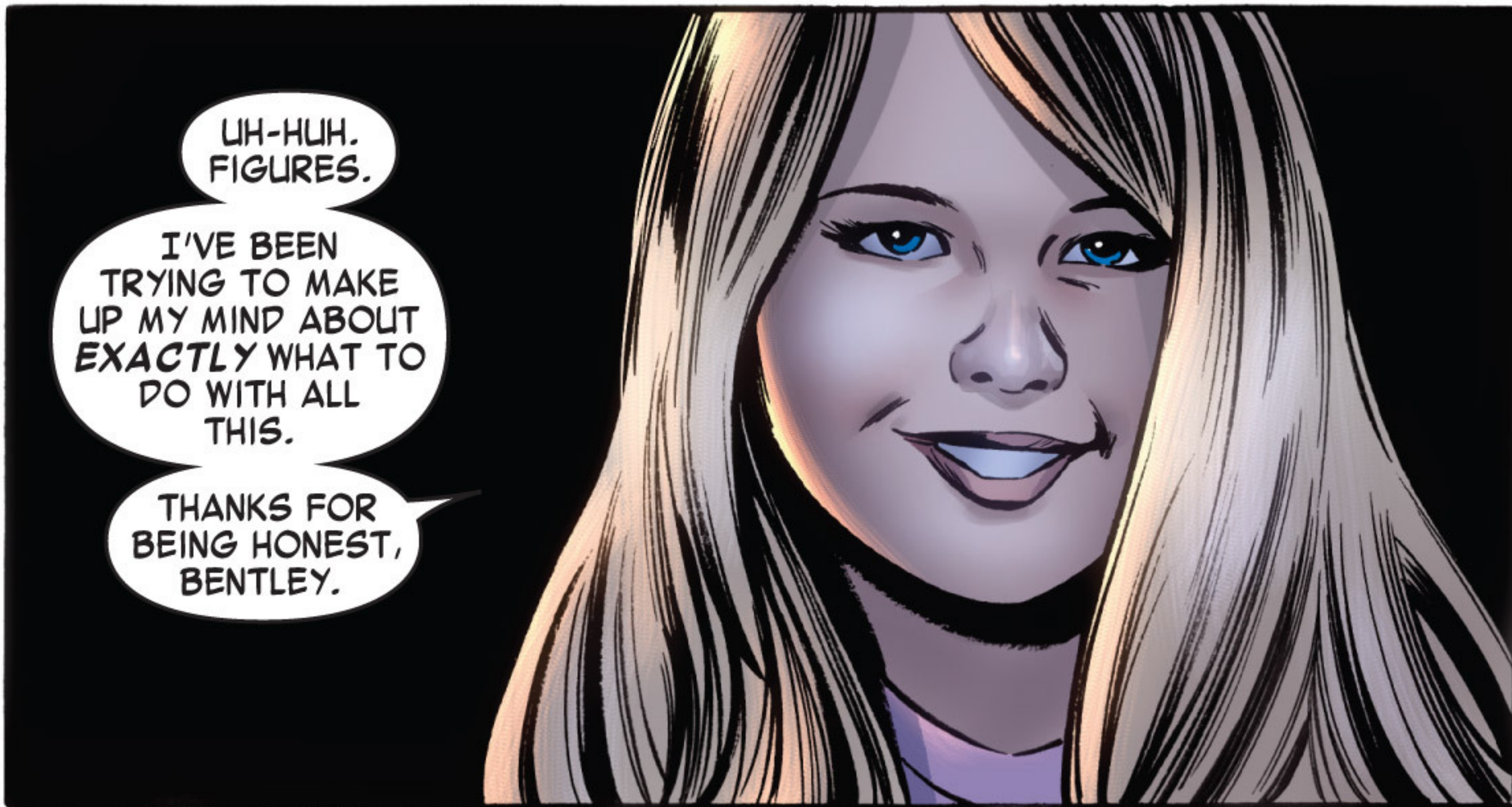
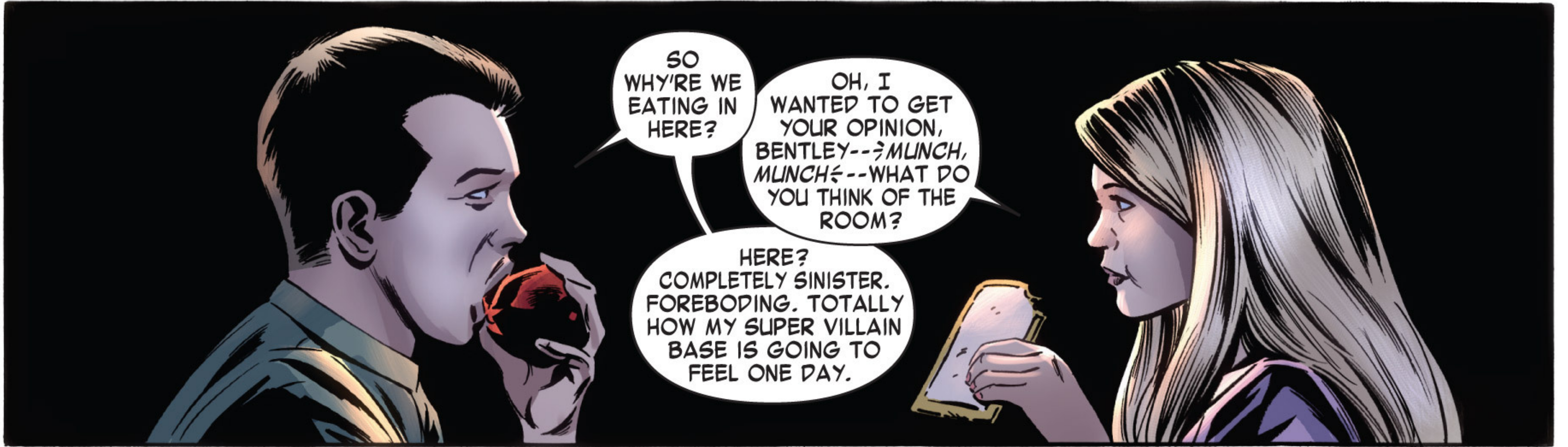
WE HAD HEARD...I MEAN... ARE YOU WELL?

UH, PROBABLY NOT...I MEAN, WHO IN THEIR RIGHT MIND HAS FIVE WIVES?



 THE BAXTER BUILDING.





 **ATILAN.**





WE HAVE
TO LEAVE NOW,
DR. WITTMAN.

H-H-H-HERE,
LUH-LET ME HELP
YOU UP.

YES. A MAN
CANNOT STAND
THE TRIALS OF LIFE
ALONE...ESPECIALLY
ITS FAILURES...

THERE IS
NO ILLUMINATION
HERE, ONLY ANGER
AND RAGE WHICH
BRINGS DEFEAT...



WE MUST
RETURN TO THE
RIGHTEOUS
PATH.

SET OUR
TRANSLOCATOR
TO HUMILITY, DR.
FORSON.





FAREWELL.

I HOPE
THEY PROLONG
YOUR PASSING--
DEATH IS TOO
GOOD FOR ANY
RICHARDS.



FOOL.

HURRY!
DISENGAGE THE
EVOLUTIONARY
DRIVE.



TOO
LATE.









I HAVE THE SECOND ONE.

HIS FLAW WAS EXUBERANCE-- HE BURNED OUT HIS OWN SHIELD.

TAKE HIM UP TO ATTILAN-- THE TRAITORS ALSO...

THEY CAN SIT IN ALPHA HELL WHILE WE PRY ANSWERS FROM THE INTERLOPERS.



I HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO INVITE YOU TO THE CITY, BUT I SEE FLAWS IN SUCH A PLAN.

PERHAPS YOU WOULD CONSIDER DECLINING?

RRRRRRR...
GO HOME, TIN MAN.



ONE DOES NOT GIVE DOOM COMMANDS, IF YOU... AH...

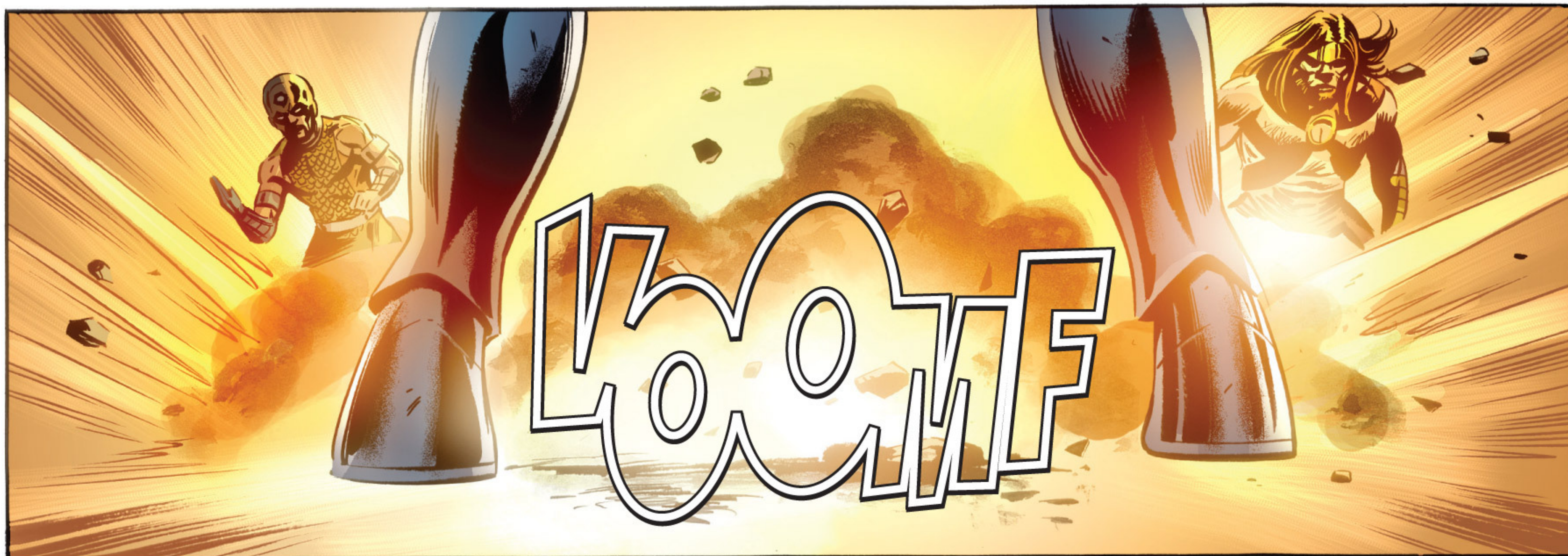


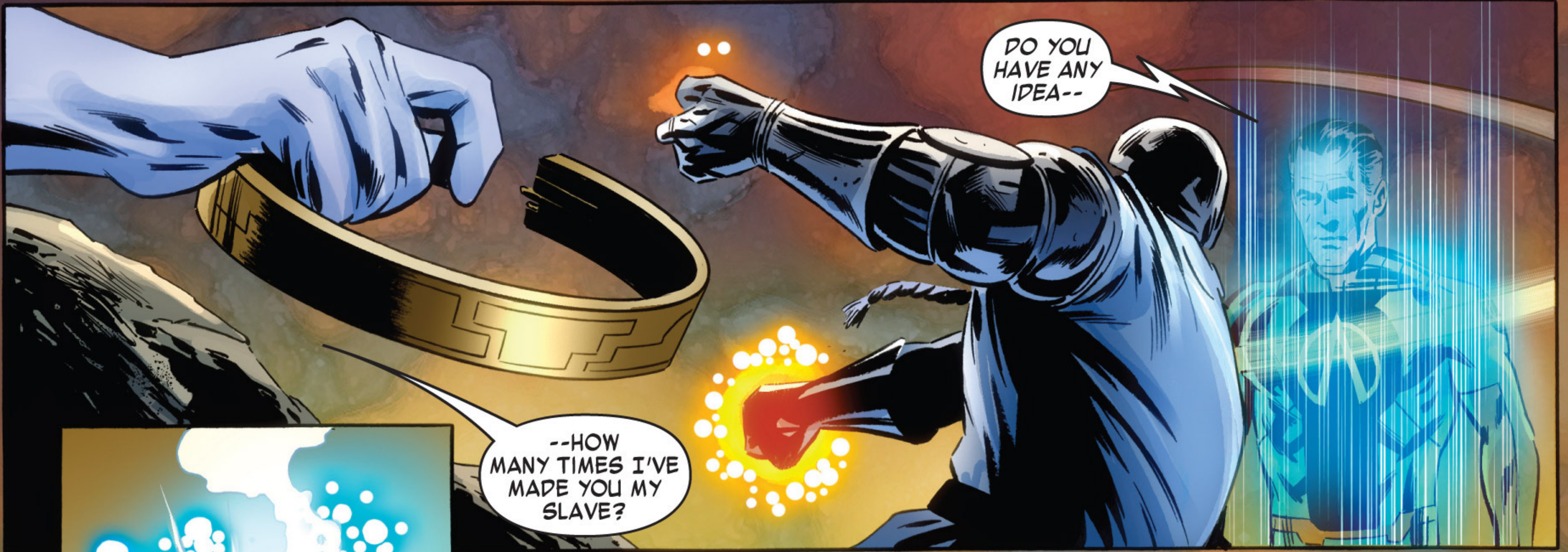
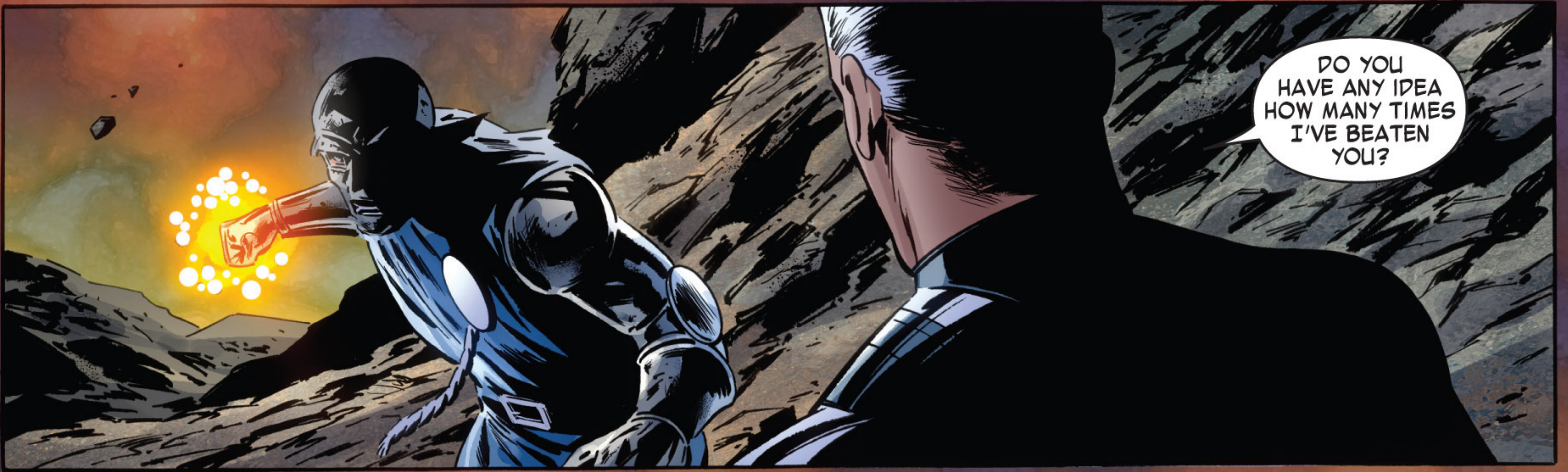
ACTUALLY...



I WILL DECLINE.

SOMETHING MORE INTERESTING HAS CAUGHT MY EYE.





ARRGGHHH!

SO...
HAS YOUR REED
TOLD YOU WHAT WE
DO TO YOU DOOMS?

YES.

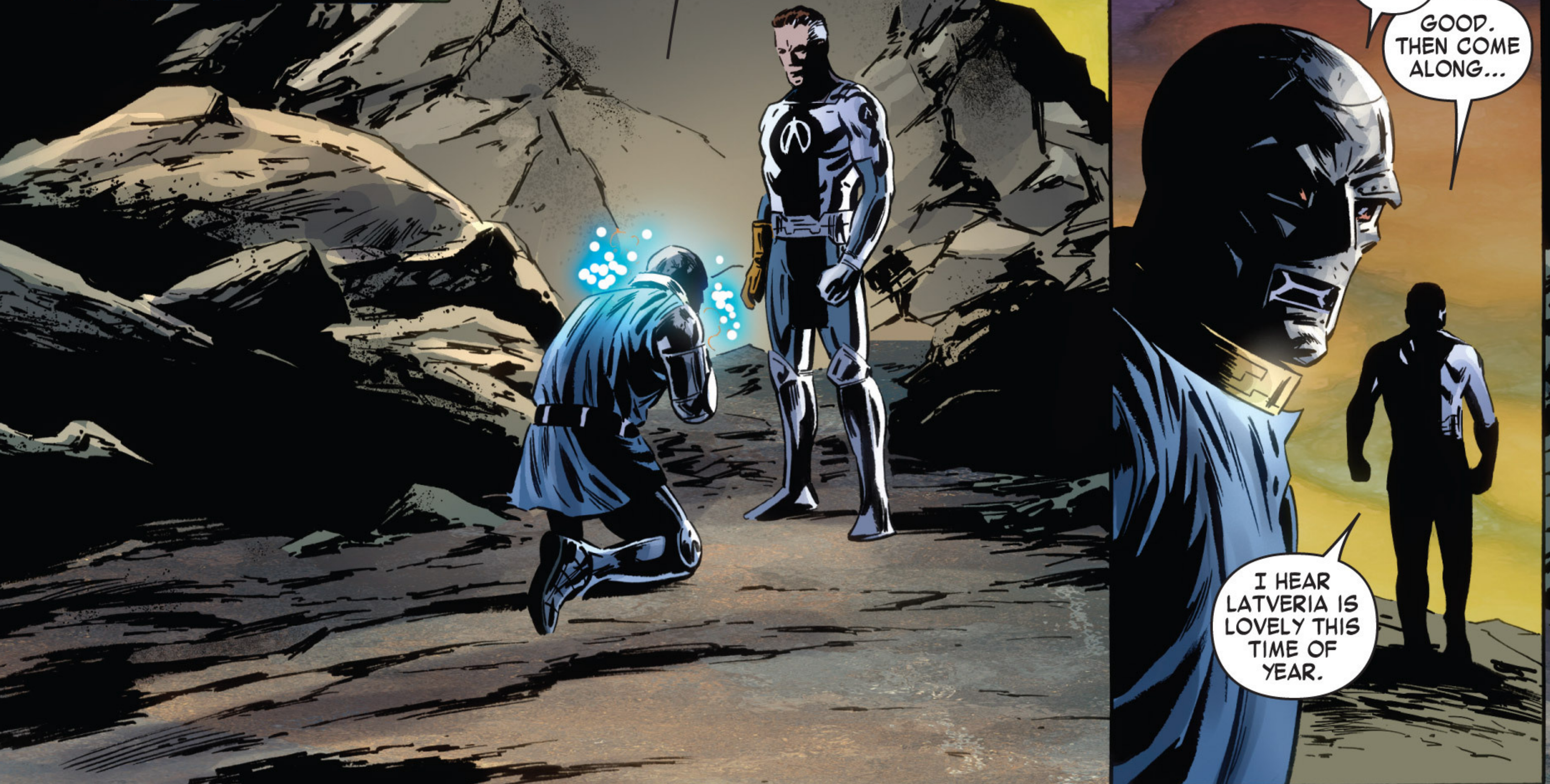
GOOD. THEN
YOU UNDERSTAND
HOW THIS IS GOING
TO WORK.

ONE DAY YOU'LL
BETRAY ME, AND I'LL
HAVE TO FULLY ENGAGE THE
COLLAR--DESTROYING YOUR
BRAIN...UNTIL THEN, YOU'LL DO
WHAT I NEED YOU TO DO,
BECAUSE YOU THINK BUYING
YOURSELF TIME WILL HELP
YOU FIGURE A WAY
OUT OF THIS.

THE LONGEVITY
OF OUR STALEMATE
IS DIRECTLY PROPORTIONAL
TO YOUR ABILITY TO IMAGINE
WHAT IT WOULD BE LIKE TO BE
BRAIN-DAMAGED...CAN YOU
DO THAT, VICTOR?

YES.

GOOD.
THEN COME
ALONG...





 **LATER.**



YOU
LET ONE
ESCAPE.



WE WILL
PRY WHATEVER
WE NEED FROM
THE OTHER
TWO...

HE WILL BE
CAUGHT.

BUT IT IS
TIME FOR YOU
TO LEAVE NOW, REED.
MY HUSBAND WISHES
TO SPARE YOU THE
TEMPTATION THAT
REMAINING WOULD
BRING.



BLACK
BOLT, I DON'T
THINK--

THIS IS
NOT A REQUEST,
REED. GO HOME.

YOUR SHIPS
WERE DESTROYED
IN THE CONFLICT,
SO YOU MAY USE
THE DOOR...

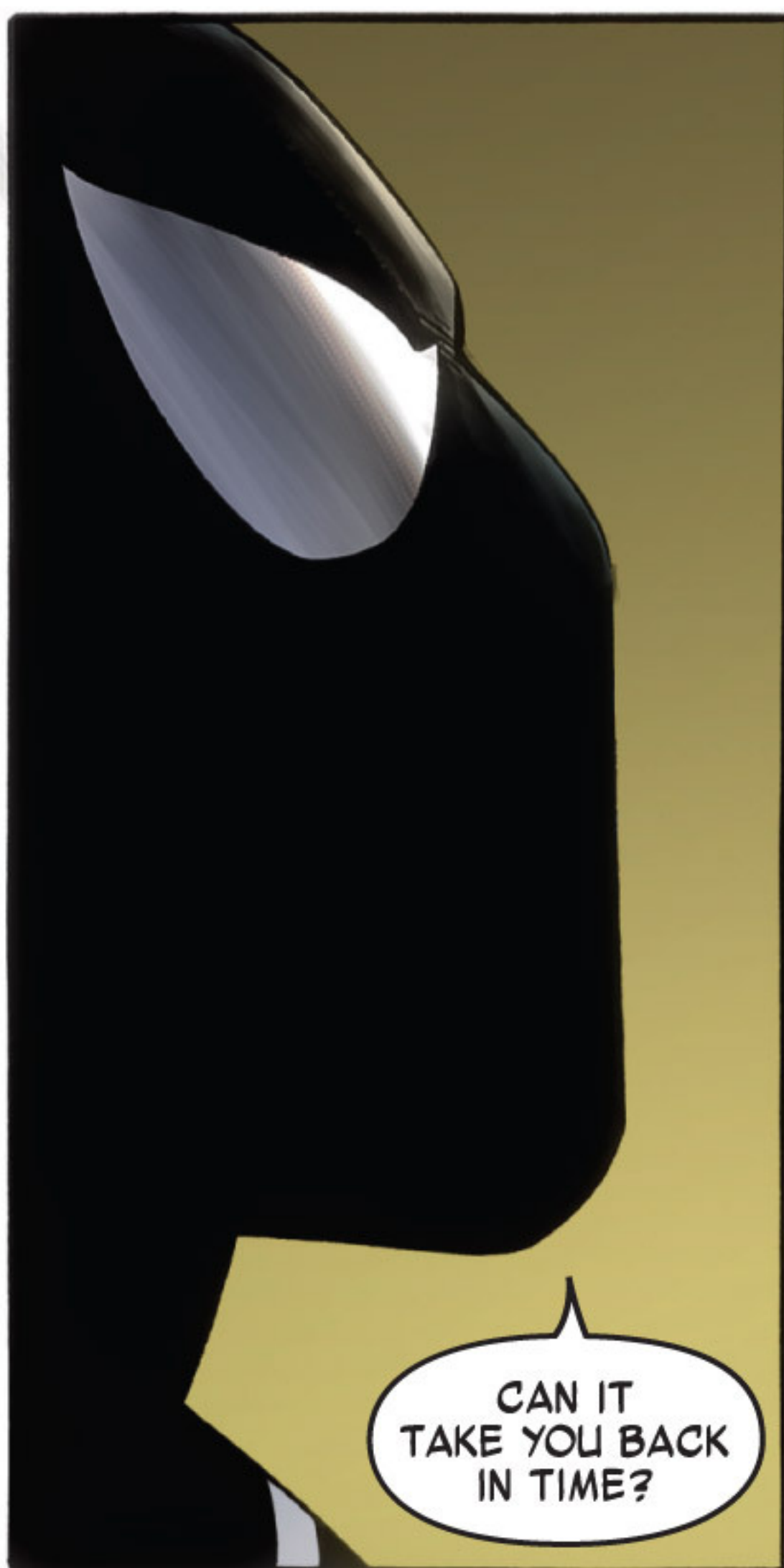


YOU KNOW
ELDRAC?

I DO.

THEN
FAREWELL
FOR NOW.

HE WILL
TAKE YOU
WHEREVER YOU
NEED TO BE.





NEXT ISSUE!

MORE BATTLING ENSUES!



TM

MARVEL

10

IN ORDER TO RETURN TO THEIR OWN DIMENSION, THE LAST FOUR REEDS OF THE INTERDIMENSIONAL COUNCIL INTEND TO BRING ABOUT THE WAR OF THE FOUR CITIES. BLACK BOLT TOOK THE INHUMANS BACK TO EARTH, LEAVING THE KREE EMPIRE IN THE CARE OF RONAN THE ACCUSER AND HIS INHUMAN WIFE, CRYSTAL. DOCTOR DOOM HAS BEEN CAPTURED AND SUBJUGATED BY ONE OF THE INTERDIMENSIONAL REEDS. THE INHUMAN PORTAL ELDRAC HAS DISPATCHED MR. FANTASTIC, HIS FATHER NATHANIEL RICHARDS, AND SPIDER-MAN TO WHERE THEY NEED TO BE.



REED RICHARDS,
MISTER FANTASTIC



SUSAN RICHARDS,
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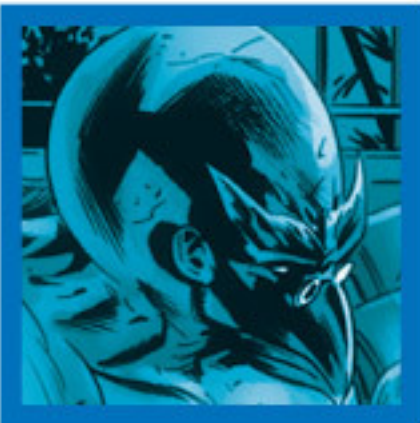
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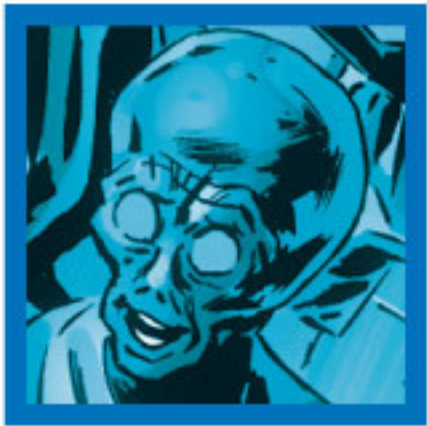
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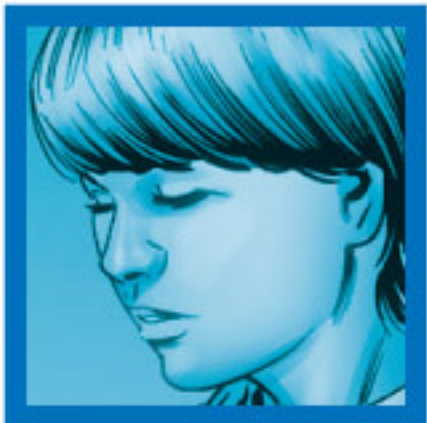
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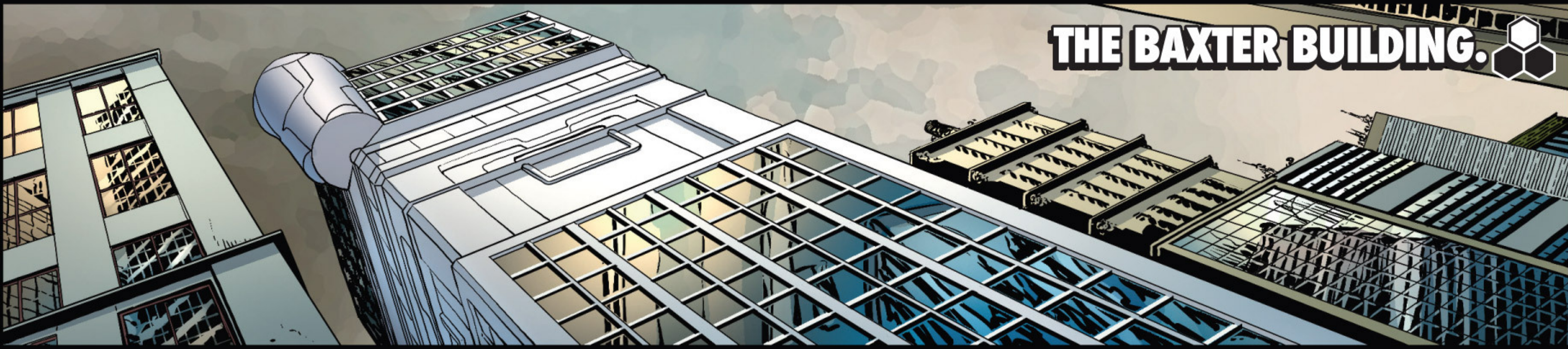
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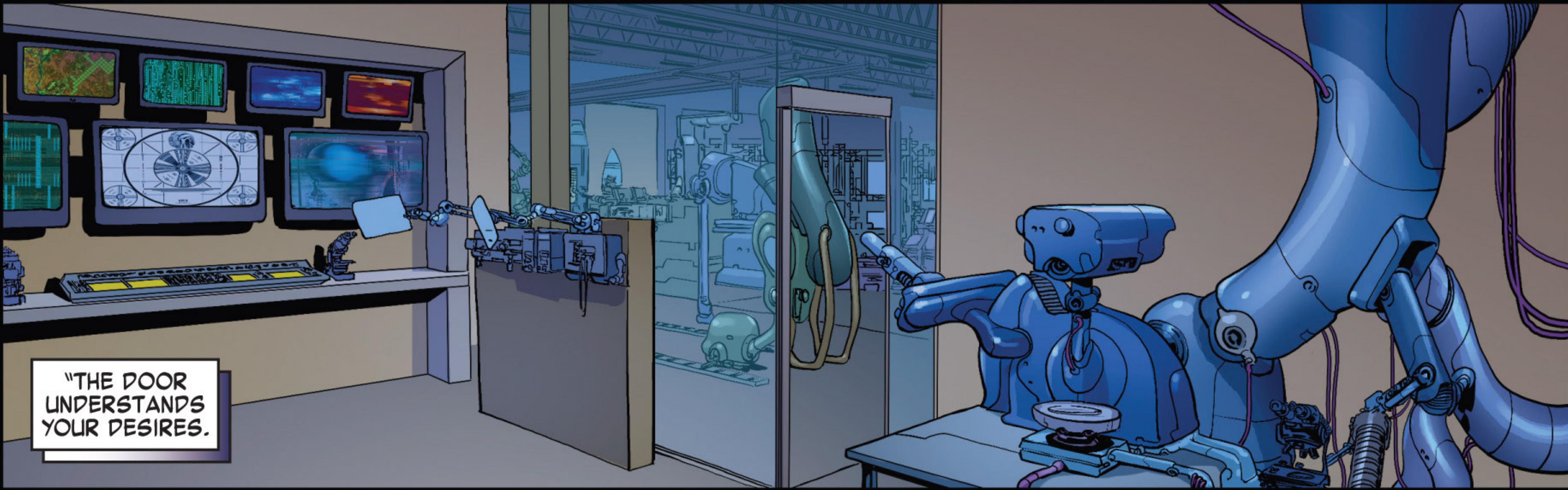
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THE BAXTER BUILDING.



"THE DOOR UNDERSTANDS YOUR DESIRES."



"IF YOU WANT TO, IT'LL TAKE YOU NOT JUST WHERE YOU THINK YOU SHOULD BE, BUT TO WHERE YOU NEED TO BE."





THE KREE DREADNOUGHT: FIST OF HALA.

...HOUSE VONN,
HOUSE RA, HOUSE LAR...
REPRESENTATIVES OF EACH
GREAT HOUSE--AND ALL
THE LESSER HOUSES THAT
ANSWER TO OUR BANNERS--
HAVE AGREED...

THE EMPIRE
IS OURS,
NOT THE INHUMAN
USURPERS,
TO GIVE.

AND, LORD
RONAN, LOYAL
ACCLUSER AND SON
OF HALA, IF YOU
WISH IT...IT IS
YOURS.

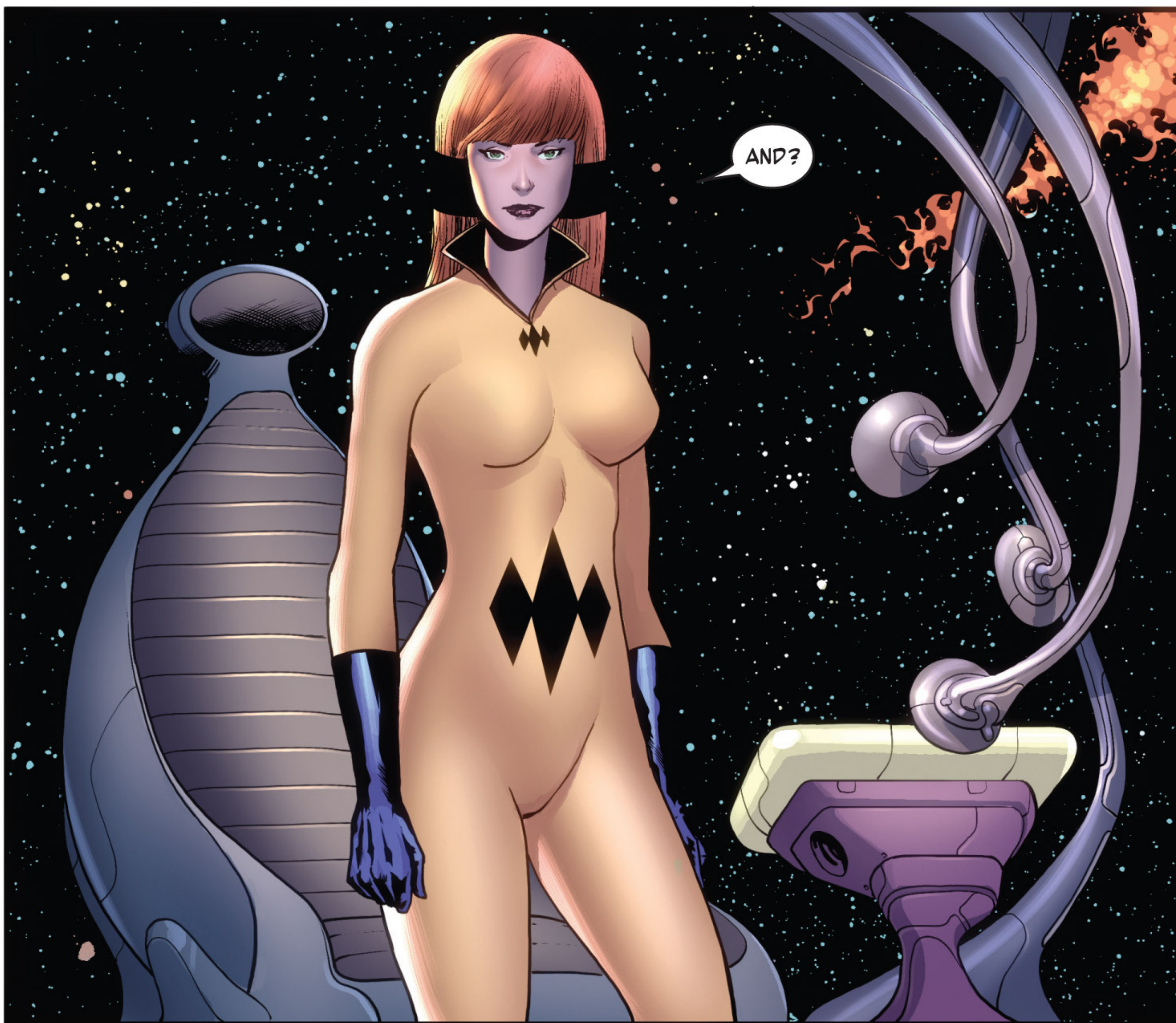
I
DO WISH
IT.

THEN YOUR
ORDERS, MY
LORD?

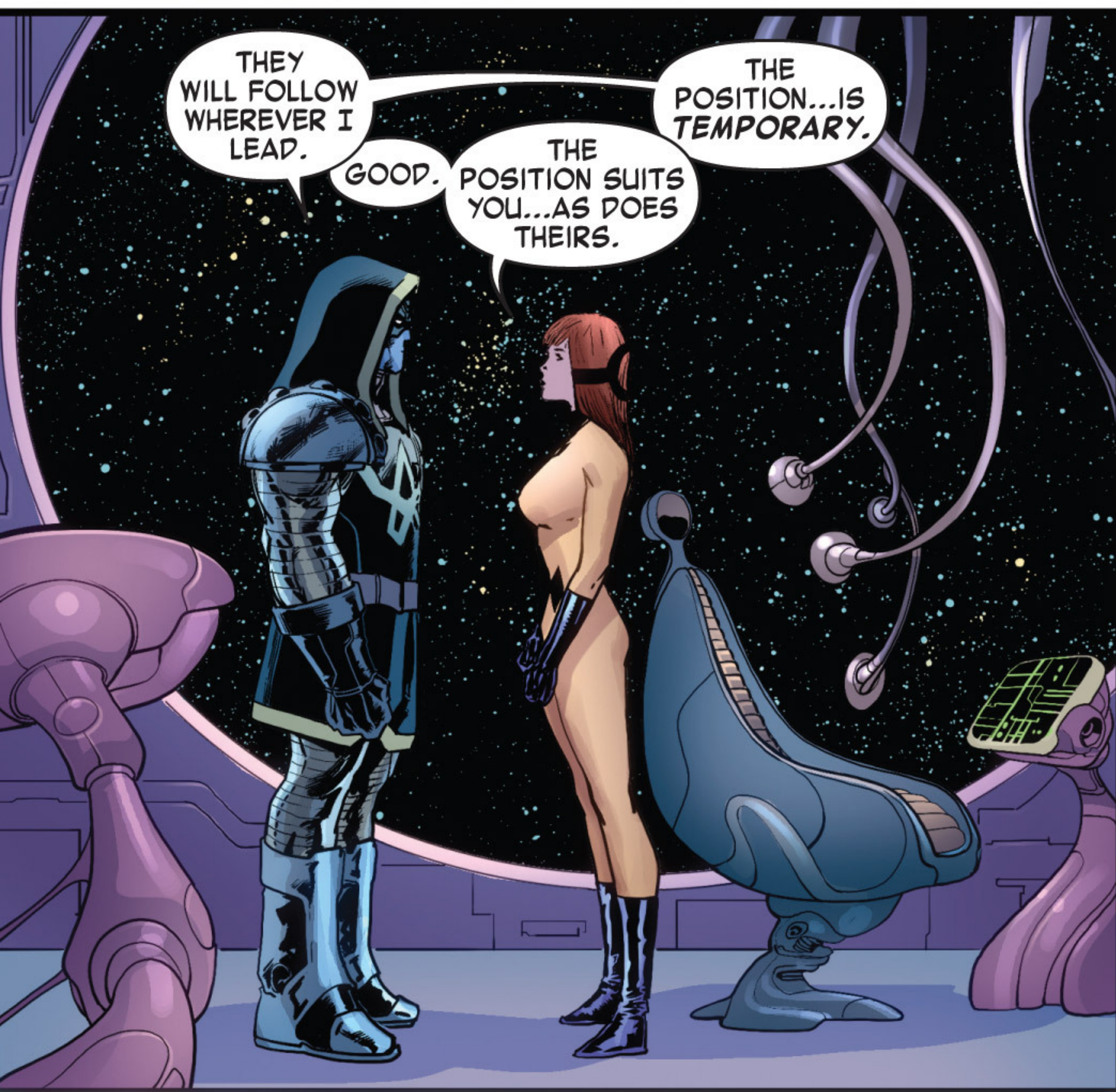
PREPARE
THE FLEET.



THEY HAVE DECIDED.



AND?



THEY WILL FOLLOW WHEREVER I LEAD.

GOOD.

THE POSITION SUITS YOU...AS DOES THEIRS.

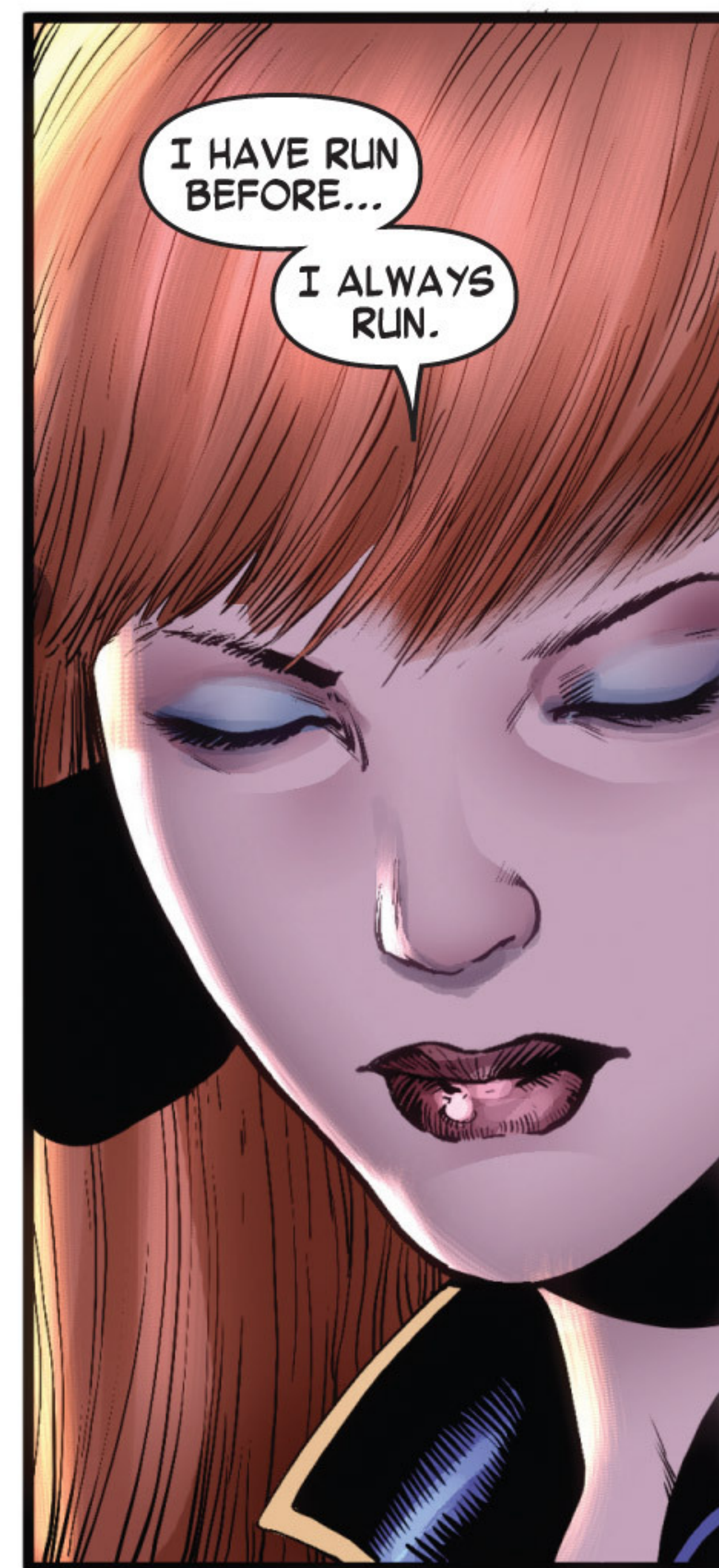
THE POSITION...IS **TEMPORARY**.



YOU KNOW WHAT I AM GOING TO DO, CRYSTAL, SO YOU KNOW WHAT I AM ABOUT TO SAY...

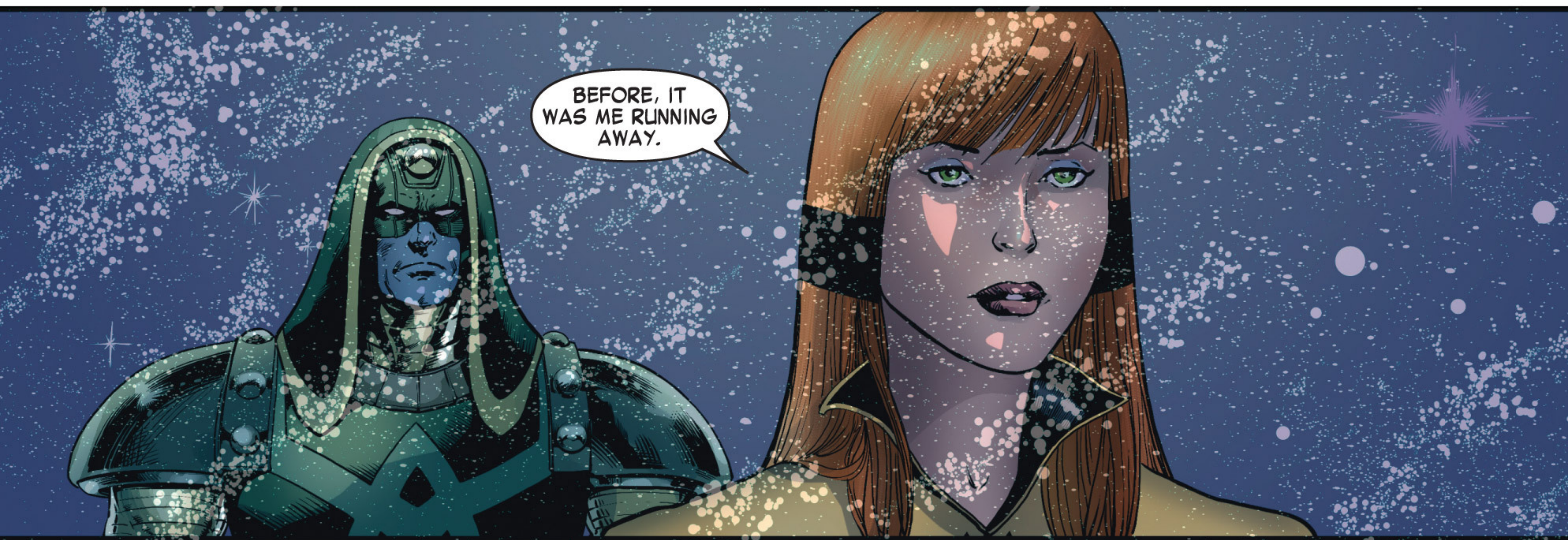
YOU MAY LEAVE IF YOU WISH. NO ONE WILL STOP YOU OR STAND IN YOUR WAY.

I'LL UNDERSTAND IF YOU CHOOSE TO RETURN TO YOUR **FAMILY**.

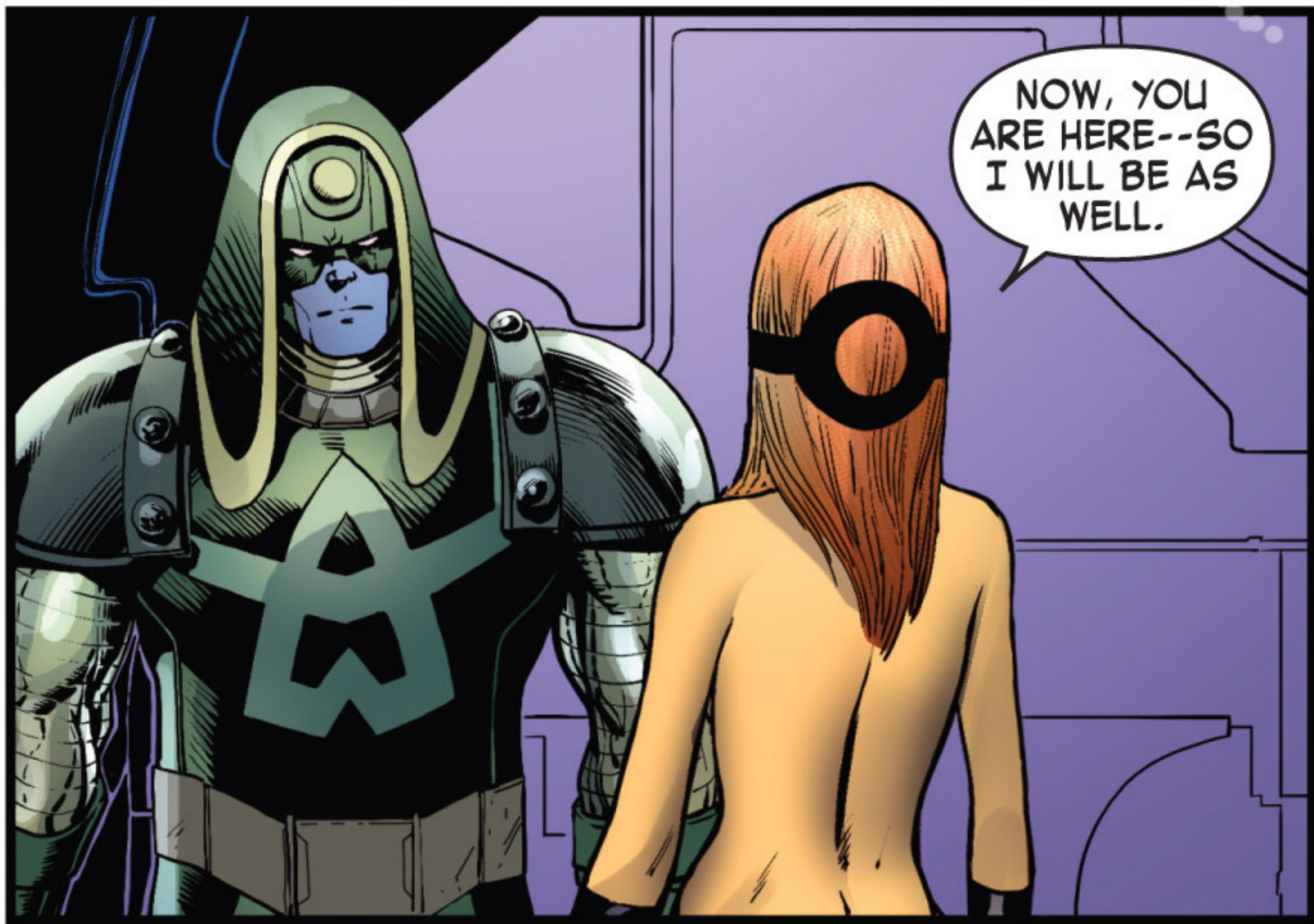


I HAVE RUN BEFORE...

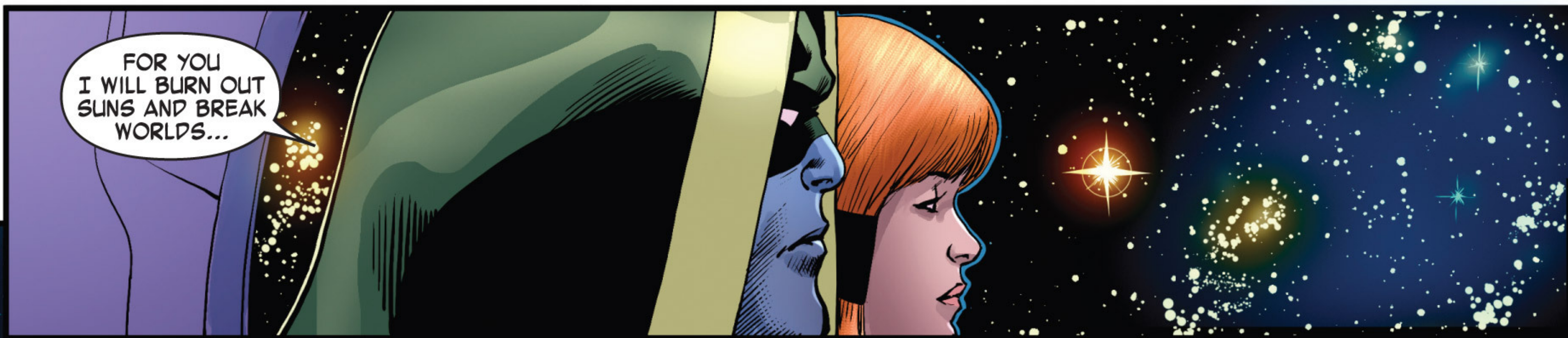
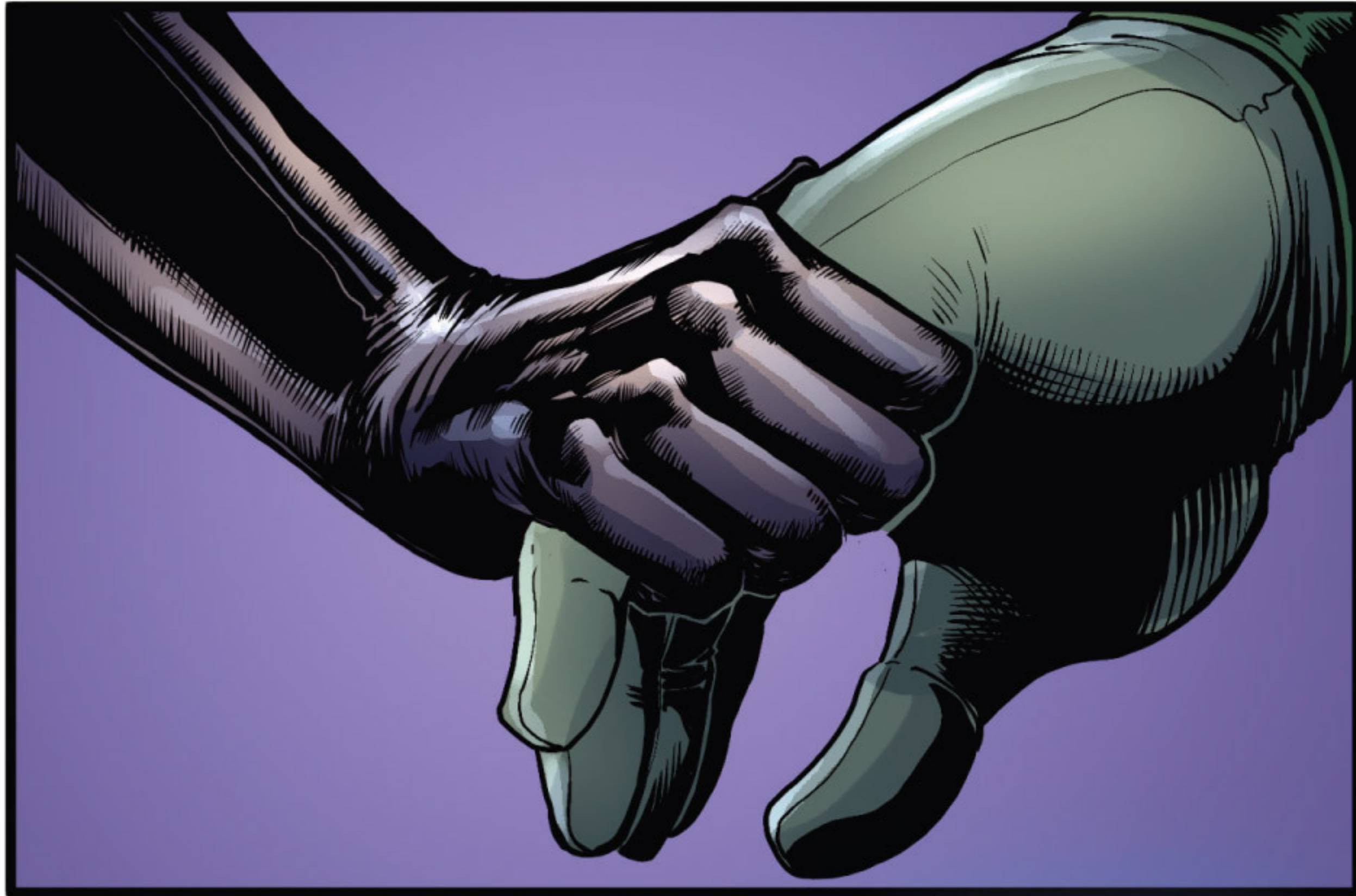
I ALWAYS RUN.



BEFORE, IT WAS ME RUNNING AWAY.



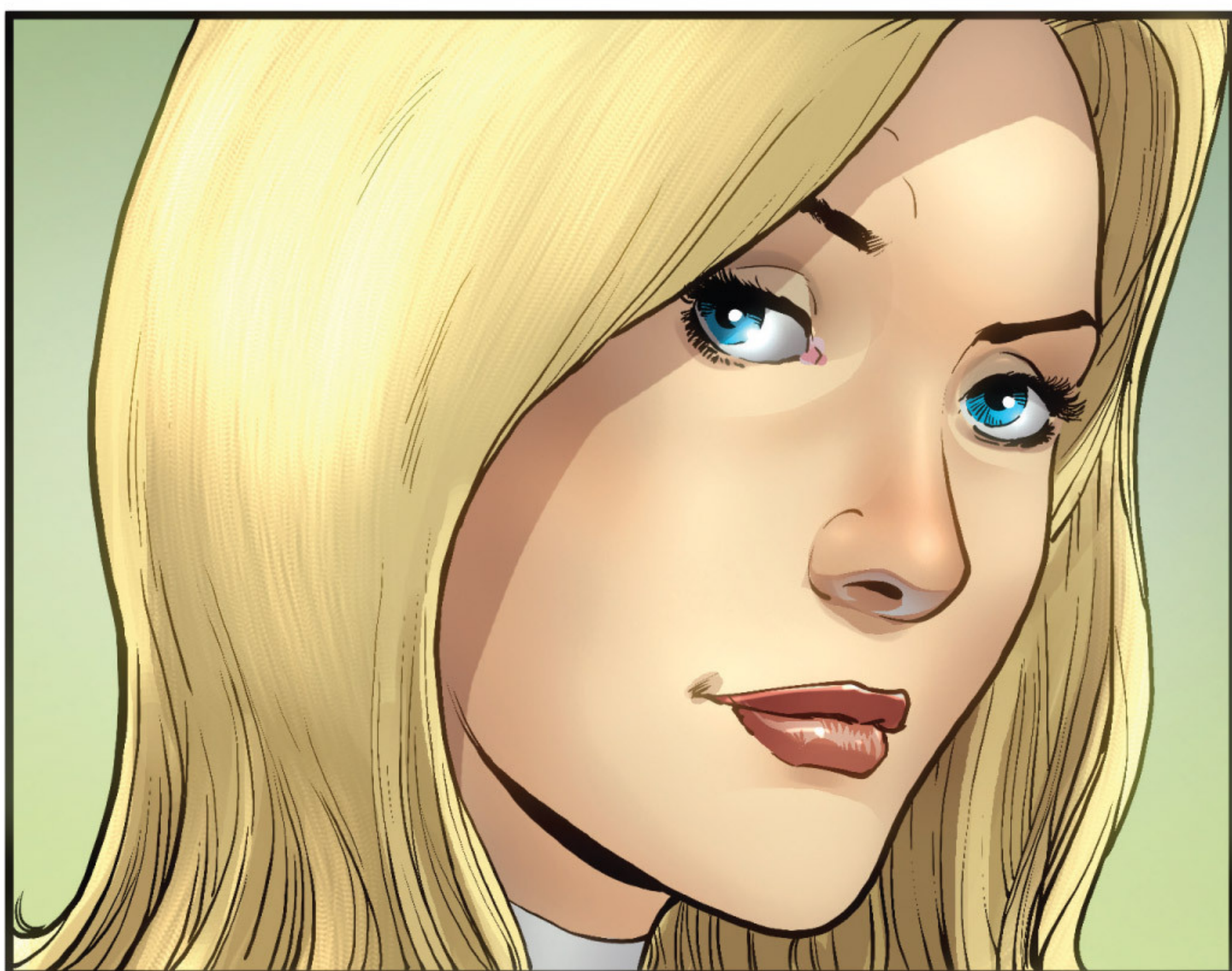
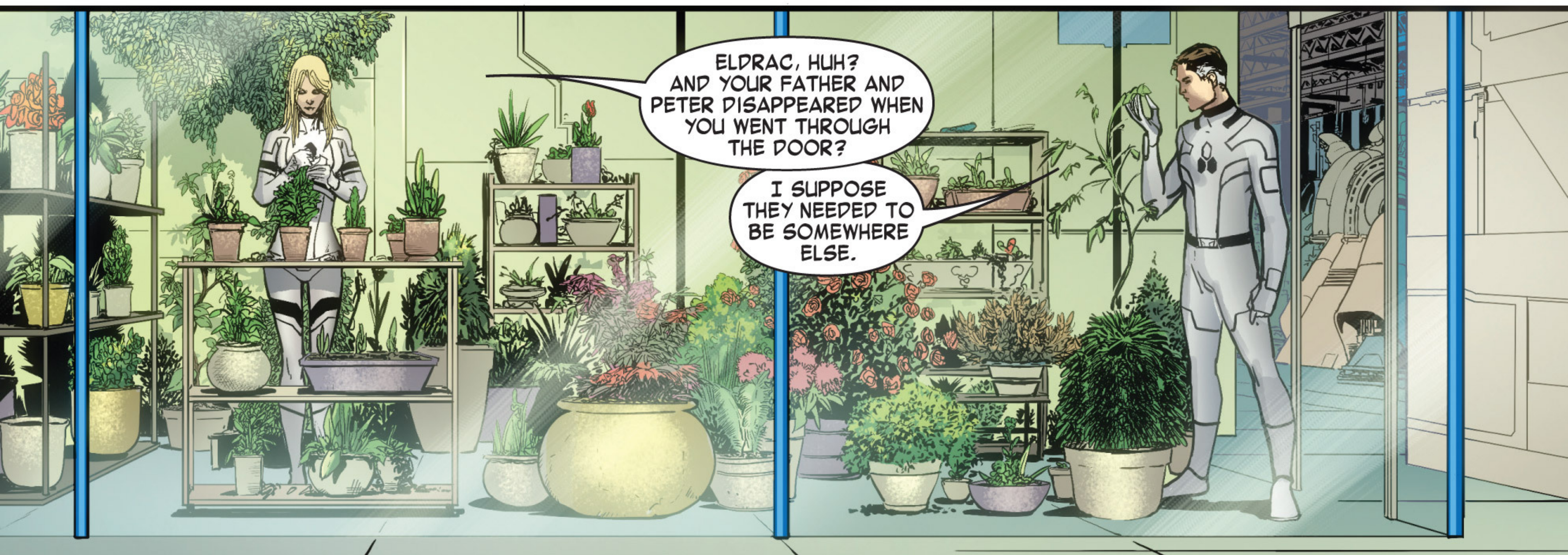
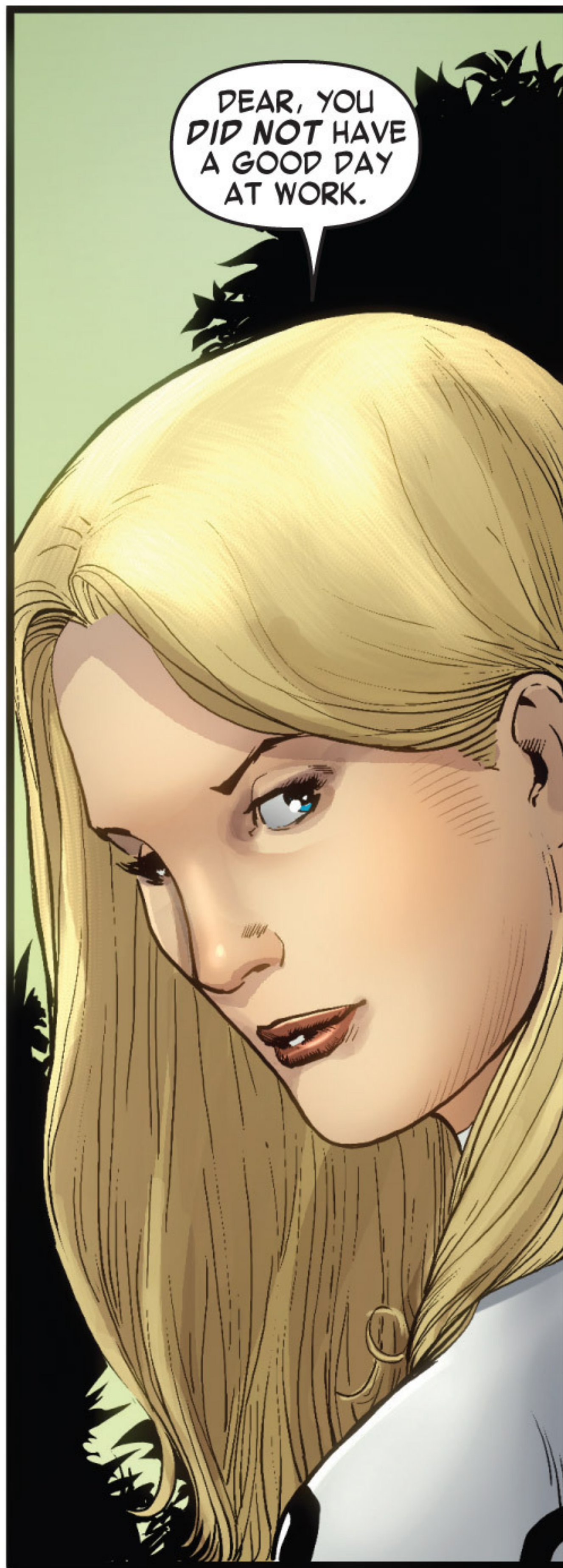
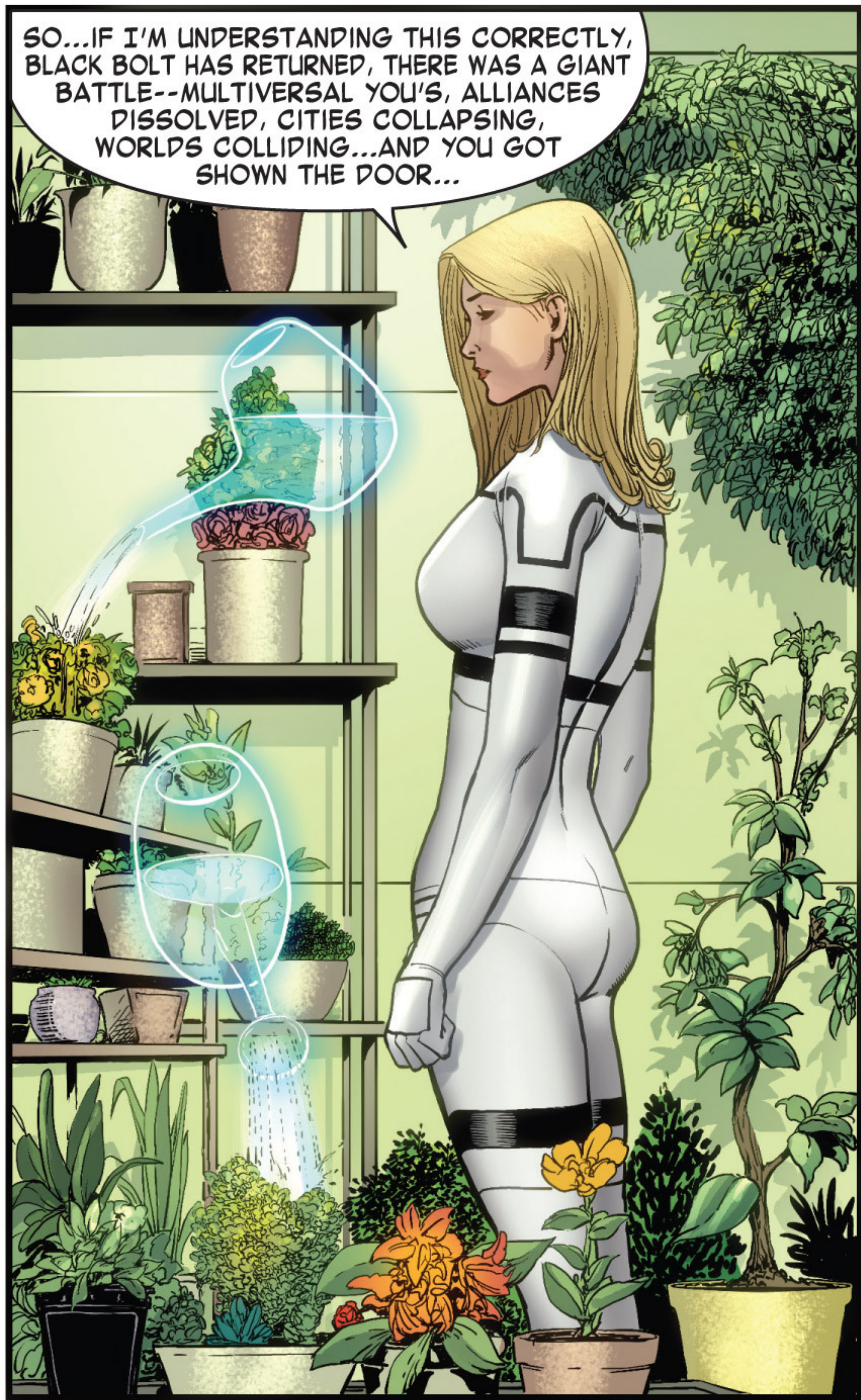
NOW, YOU ARE HERE--SO I WILL BE AS WELL.

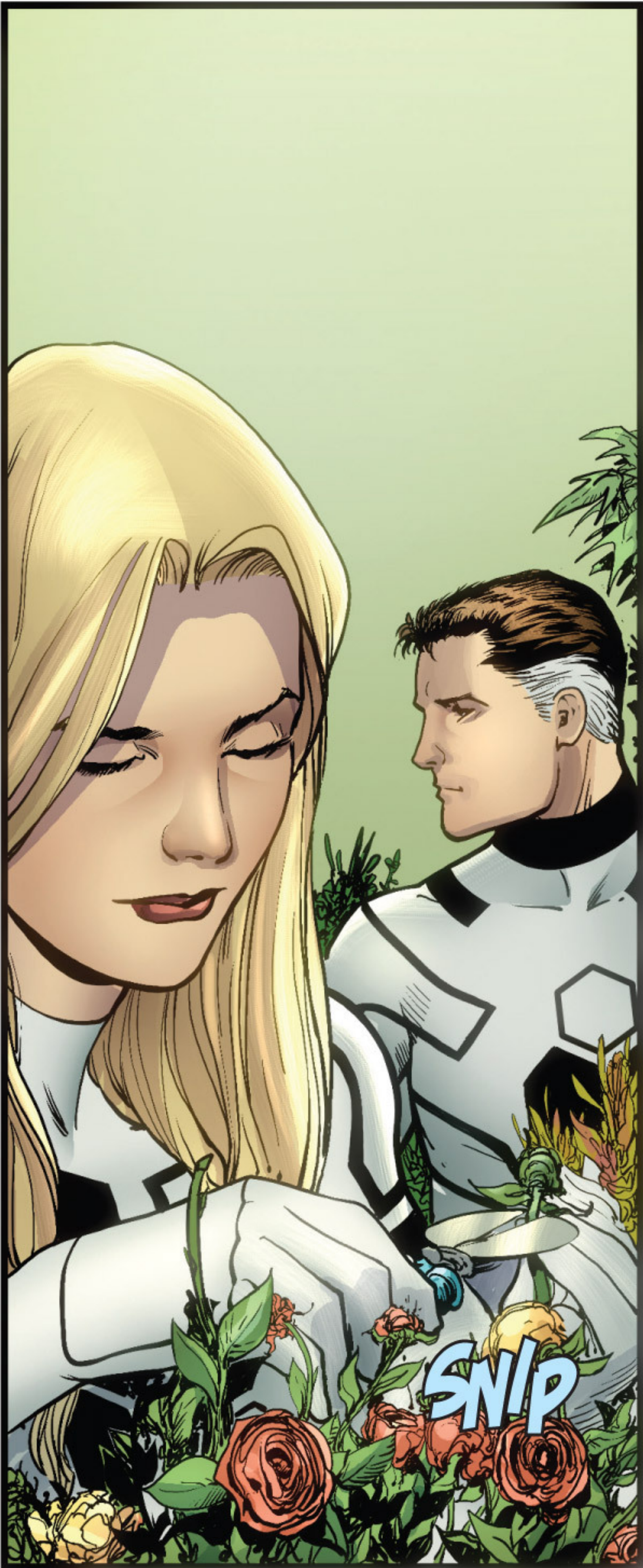
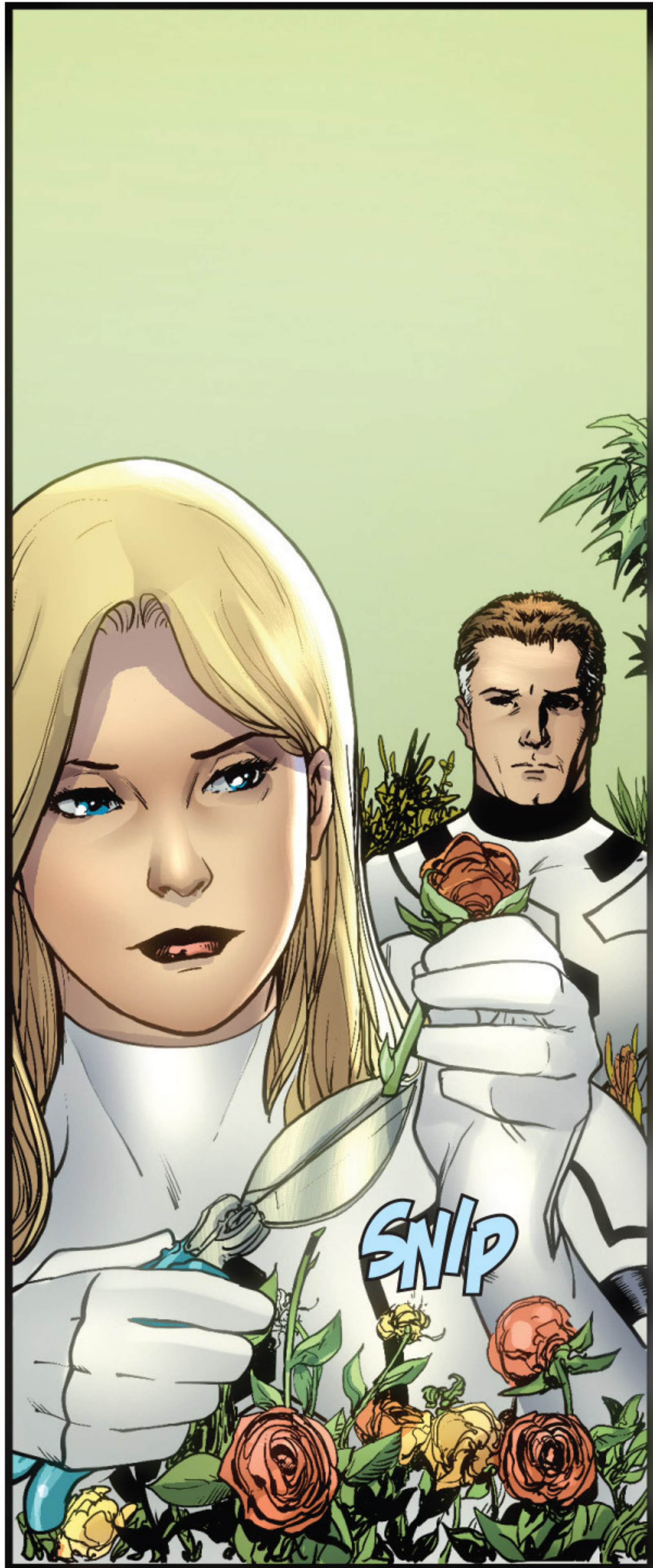
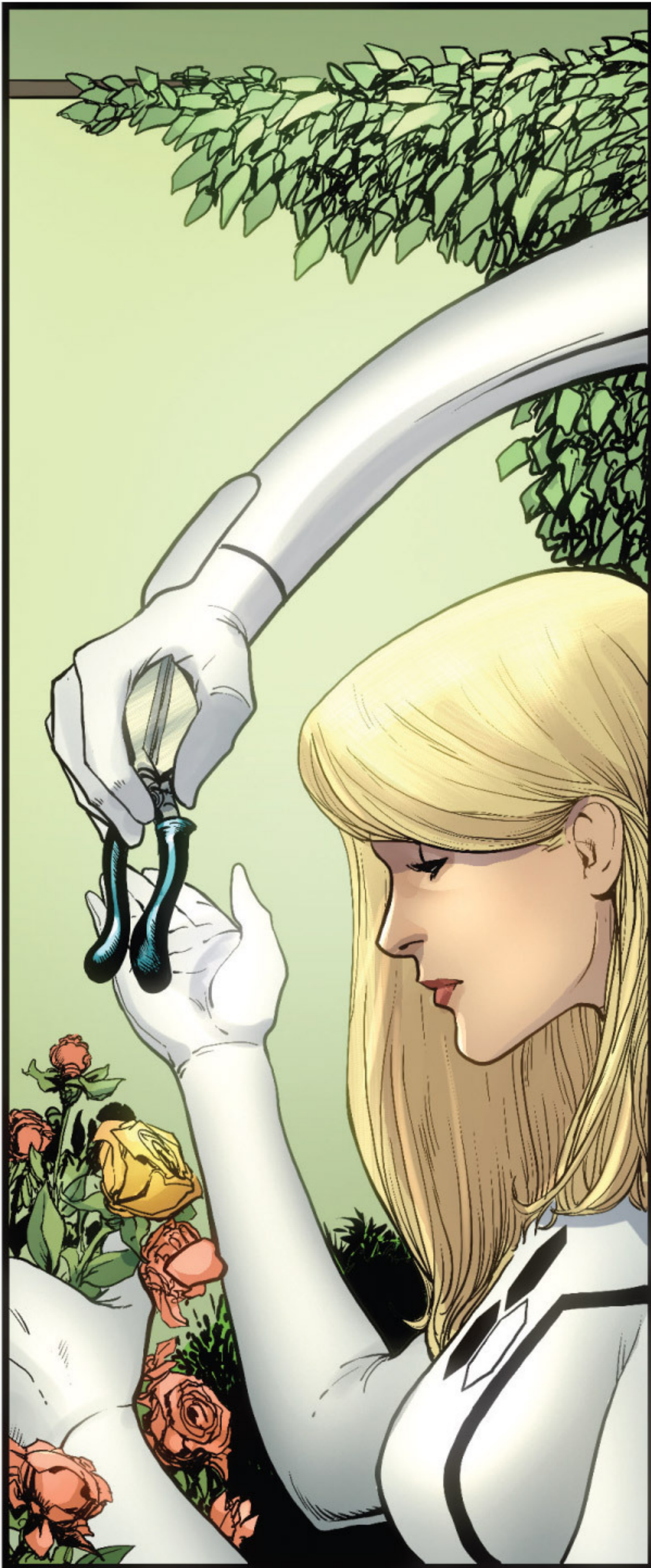
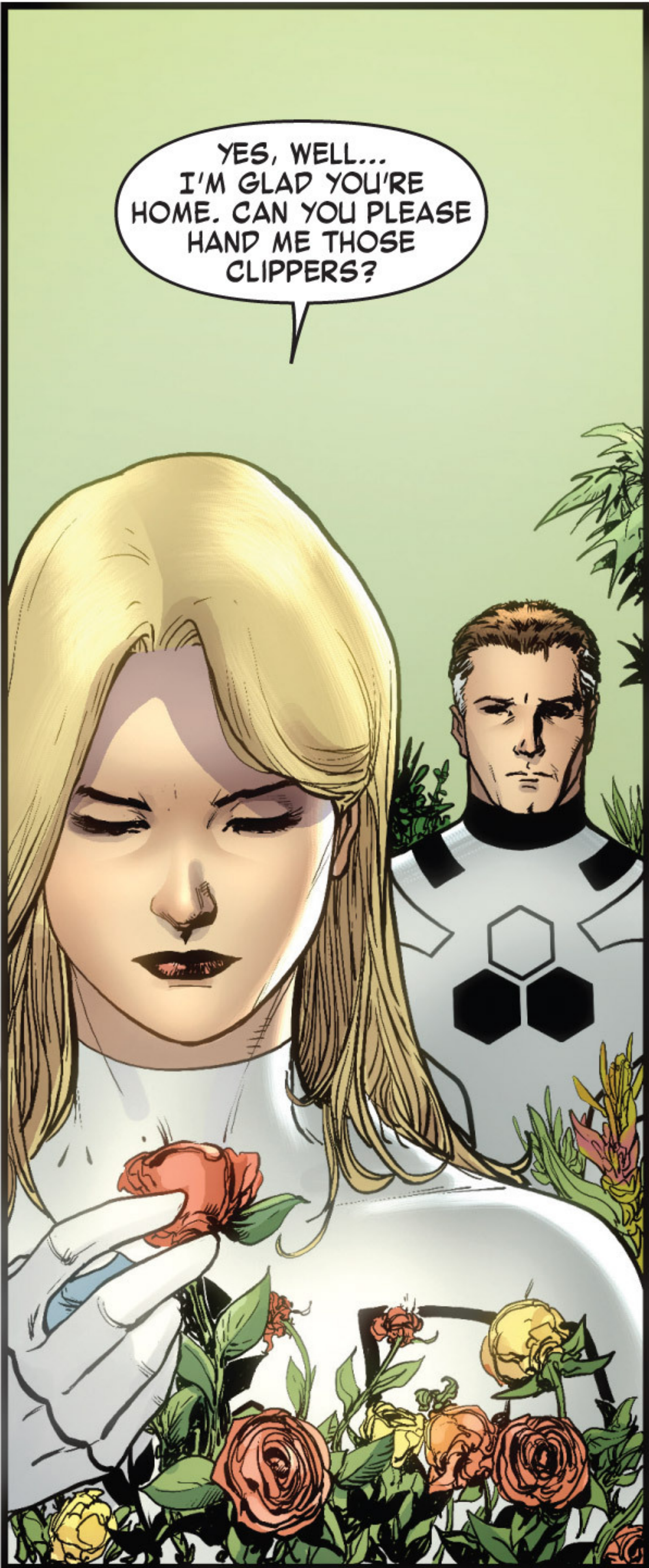


FOR YOU I WILL BURN OUT SUNS AND BREAK WORLDS...



"TOGETHER, WE WILL SEE MAGNIFICENT THINGS."

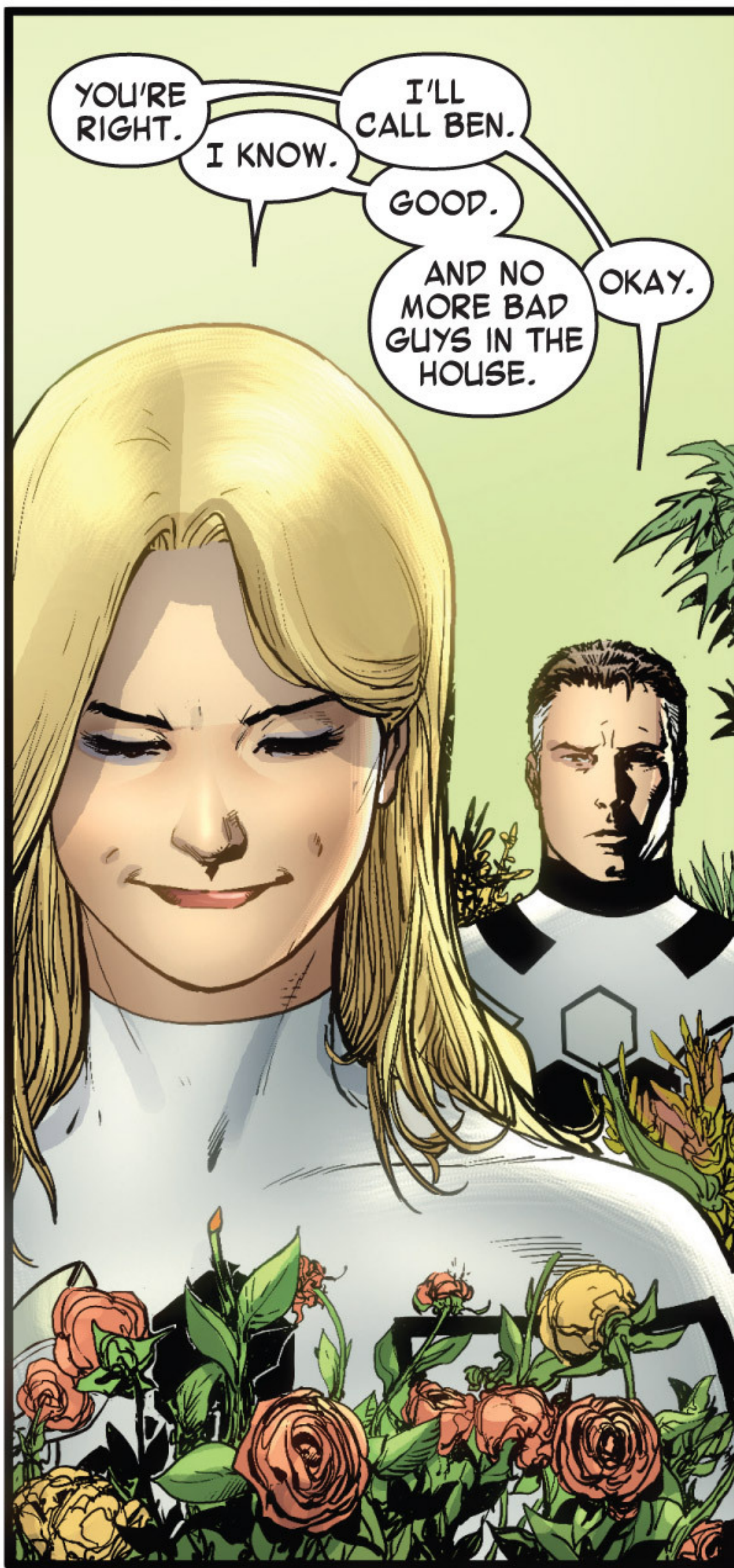






WELL, I THINK YOU'VE GONE AND GOTTEN YOURSELF LOST TRYING TO PREVENT IT FROM HAPPENING, AND, JUST MAYBE, IT CAN'T BE AVOIDED.

WE'RE BEING TESTED, REED, AND WE'RE FAILING...BEING PULLED APART WHEN WE NEED EACH OTHER MOST.



YOU'RE RIGHT.

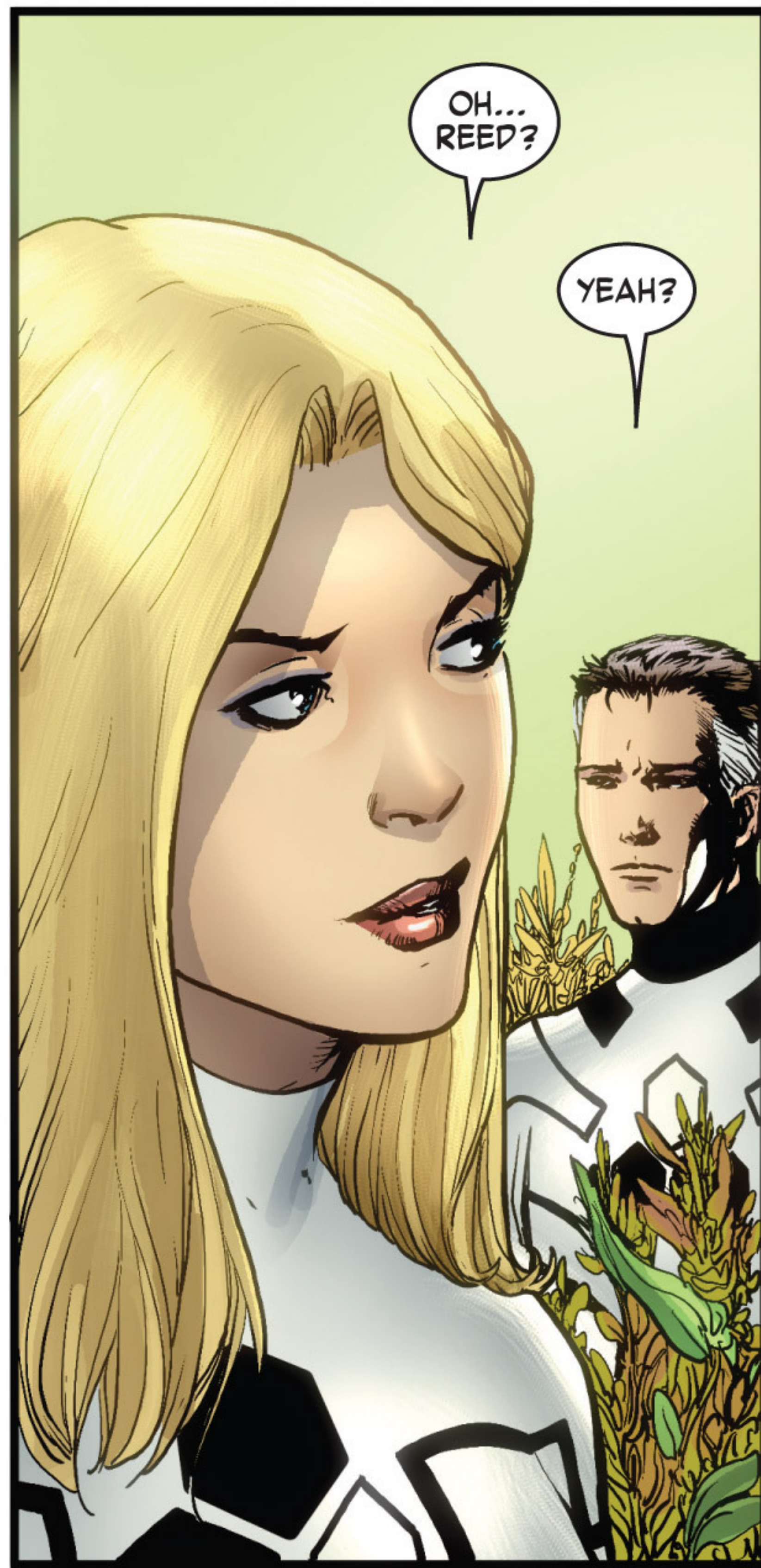
I KNOW.

I'LL CALL BEN.

GOOD.

AND NO MORE BAD GUYS IN THE HOUSE.

OKAY.

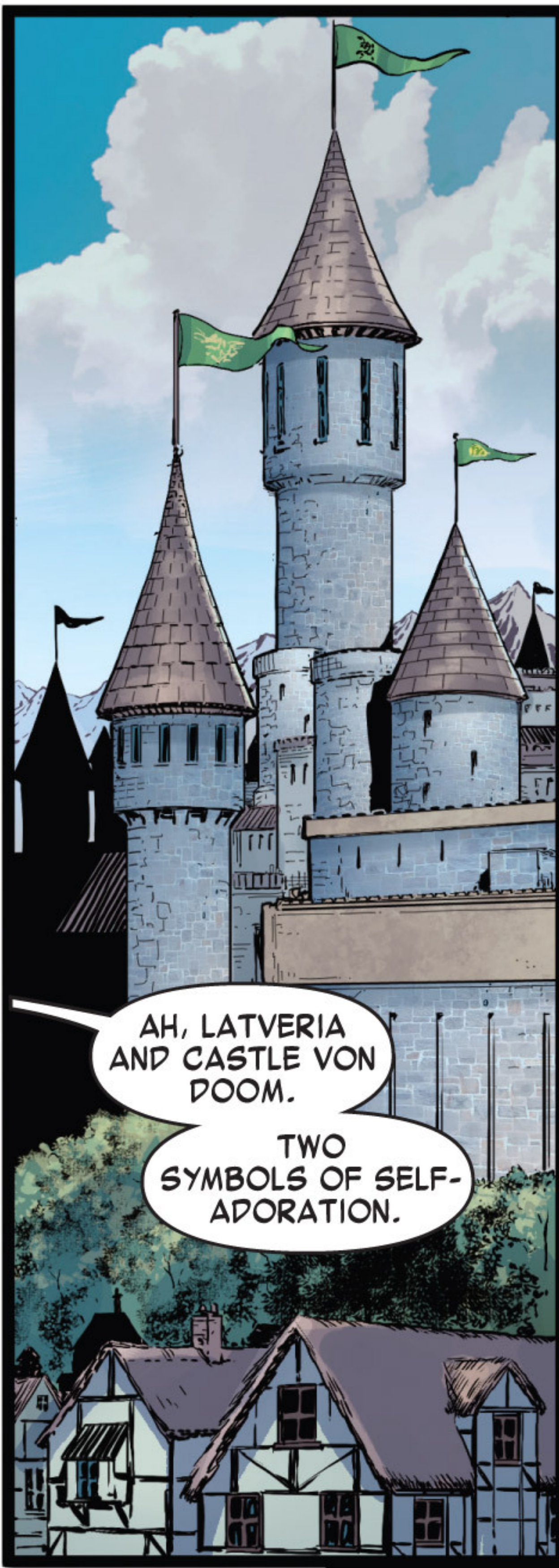


OH... REED?

YEAH?



YOU DIDN'T SAY WHAT HAPPENED TO VICTOR.



AH, LATVERIA
AND CASTLE VON
DOOM.

TWO
SYMBOLS OF SELF-
ADORATION.

OVER
THE YEARS, I'VE
COME TO THINK OF
ITS CITIZENS AS
ENABLERS.

TELL ME,
VICTOR...DOES
THAT RING TRUE IN
THE EMPTY METAL
CAVERN OF YOUR
CHEST?

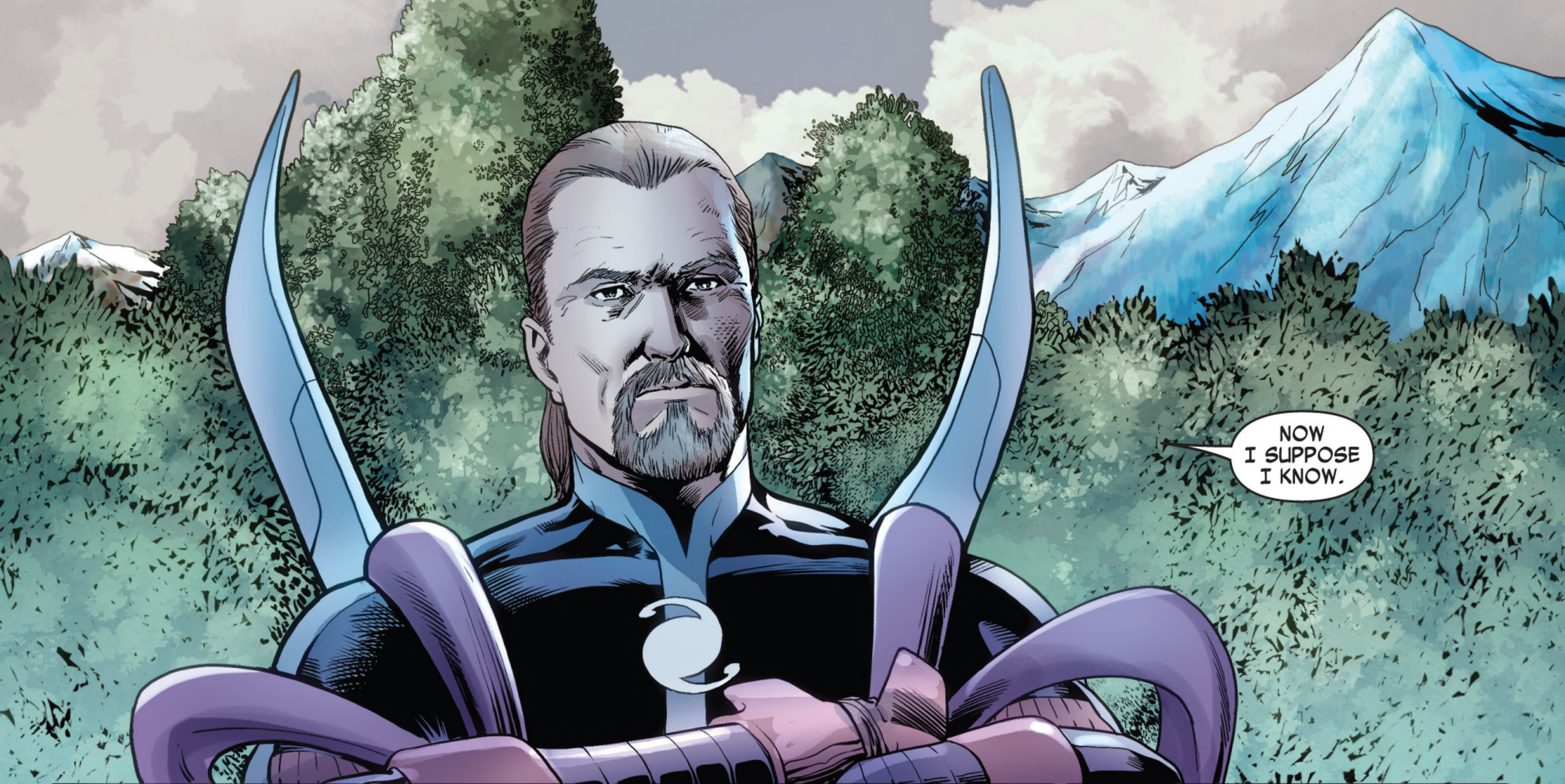
LEAVE MY
PEOPLE OUT
OF THIS.

YOUR PEOPLE? I'M FIGHTING FOR THE
SURVIVAL OF EVERY *WORLD* THAT EVER
WAS...*NO ONE* IS OUT OF THIS.
RIGHT NOW, WE ARE SIMPLY
MEASURING *COST*.

I DO,
HOWEVER,
APOLOGIZE FOR
THE INELEGANCE
OF WHAT
FOLLOWS.

THE LACK
OF REFINEMENT
OFFENDS ME...
BUT IT MUST BE
DONE.

I HAD
BEEN WONDERING
WHY I WAS SENT
HERE...



NOW
I SUPPOSE
I KNOW.



OH, MY, MY...
DO YOU KNOW WHO
THIS IS, VICTOR? IT'S
ONE OF THE RAREST
GEMS IN ALL THE
MULTIVERSE.

WHAT. A.
PRIZE.

THIS IS
NATHANIEL
RICHARDS.



YES,
I KNOW.

NO. I
AM NOT.

ARE
YOU ALL RIGHT,
VICTOR?



AH, SO YOU'VE MET, BUT DO YOU KNOW
HIS STORY...DID YOU KNOW THAT THESE
'FATHERS' SPENT ALL OF TIME ON A
SUICIDAL QUEST TO DESTROY
THEMSELVES?

THAT THEY
LEFT EVERYONE
THAT LOVED THEM
BEHIND? THAT HE
LEFT ME BEHIND?

WE REEDS
LEARNED THAT
LESSON VERY
WELL.

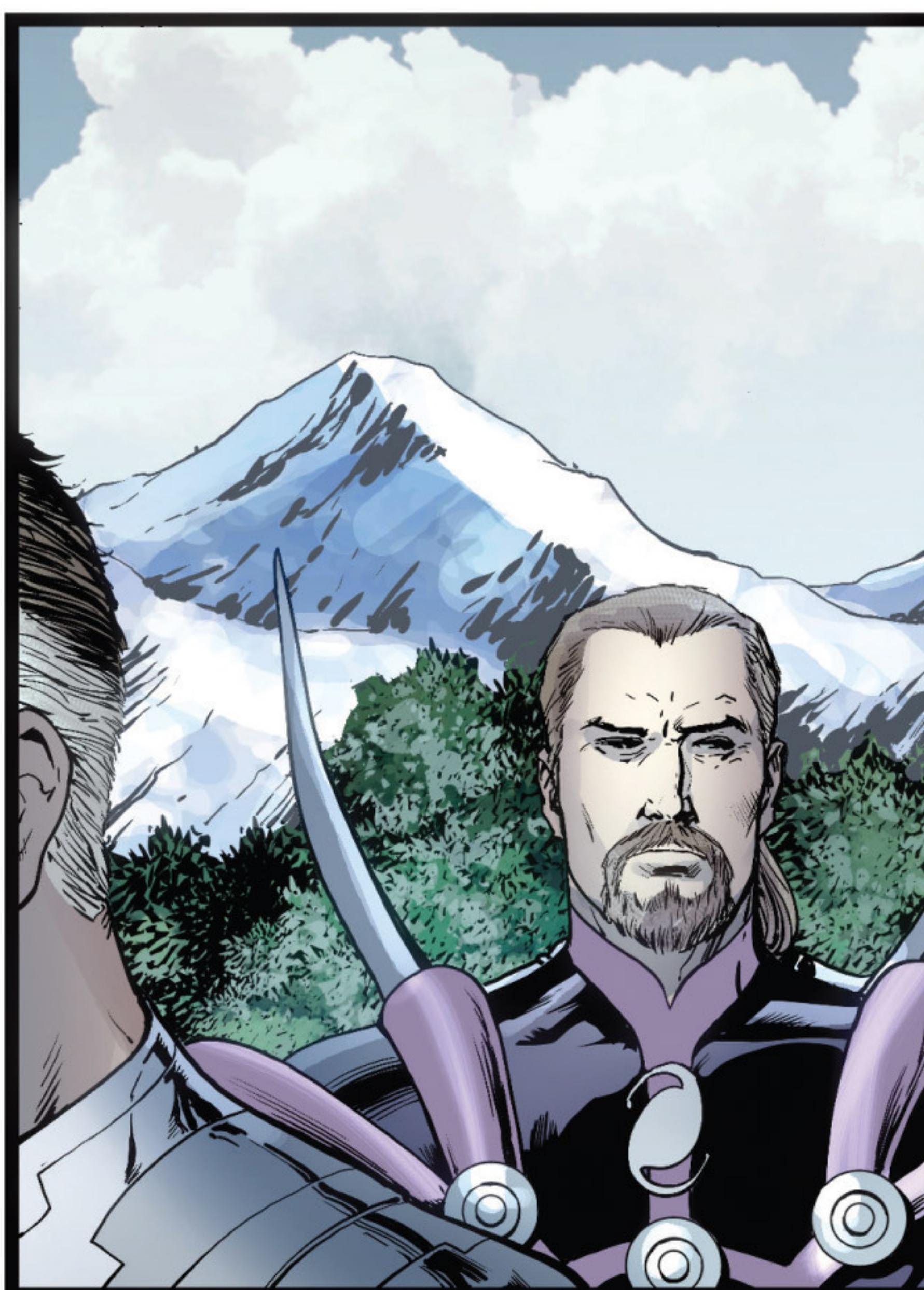


"I ACTUALLY WENT LOOKING FOR MY
NATHANIEL ONCE AND FOUND HIM PICKING
HIS OWN CORPSE CLEAN--TAKING FROM
THE OTHER HIM HE HAD JUST KILLED.

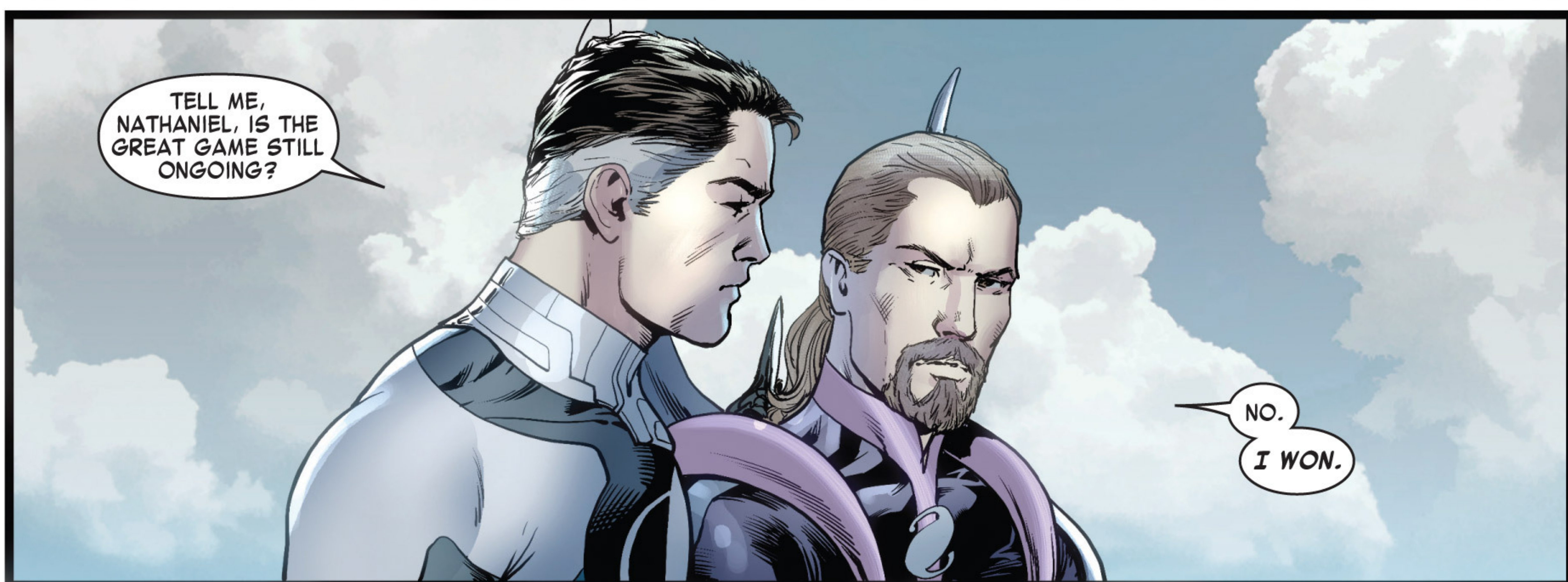
"THE OLD FOOL HAD BECOME
SUCH AN ANIMAL THAT HE
STARTED CALLING HIMSELF
THE BEAST..."



CAN YOU
IMAGINE WHAT
HE MUST HAVE
BEEN LIKE?

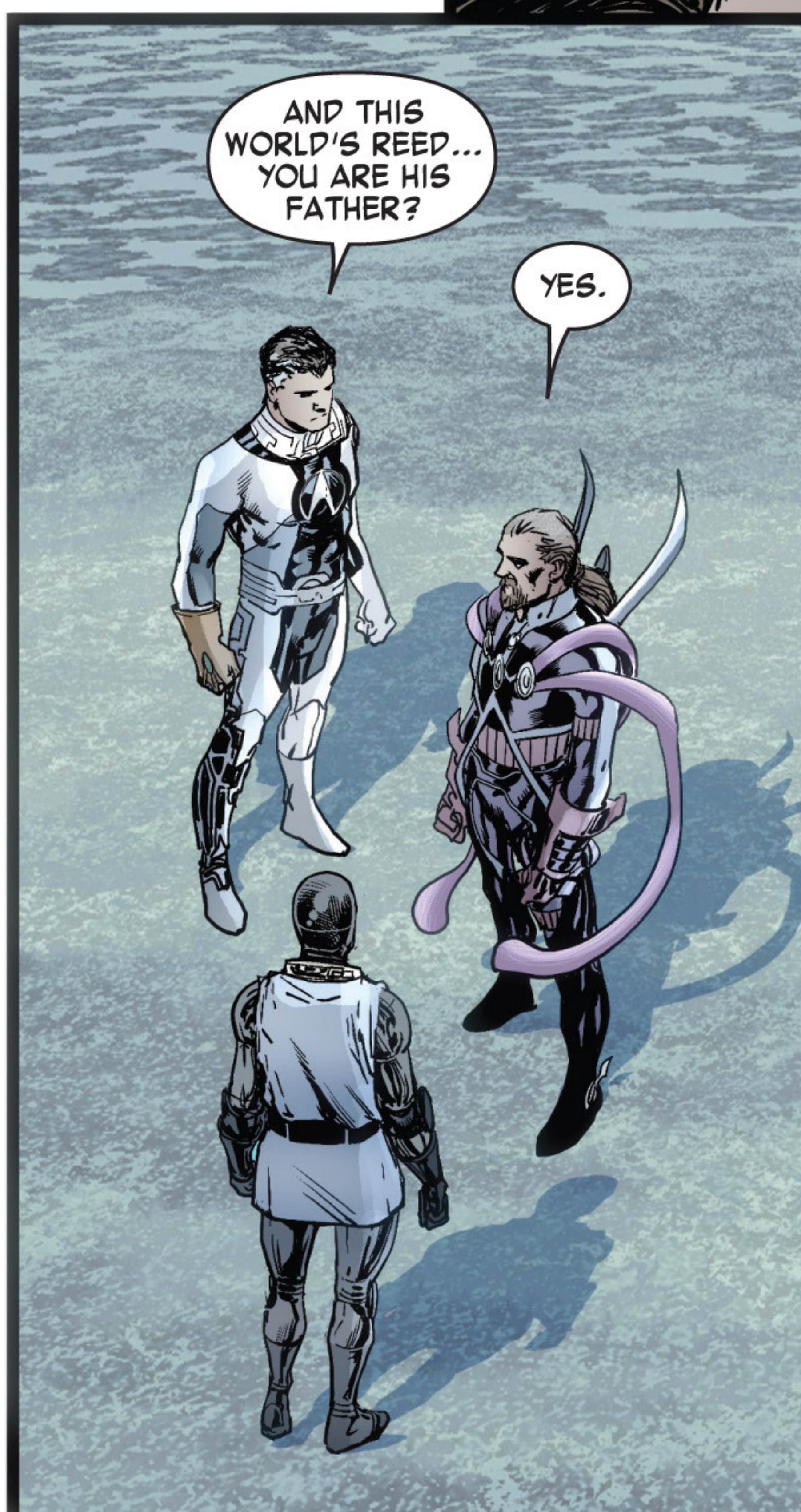


YES.
ACTUALLY,
I CAN.



TELL ME,
NATHANIEL, IS THE
GREAT GAME STILL
ONGOING?

NO.
I WON.



AND THIS
WORLD'S REED...
YOU ARE HIS
FATHER?

YES.



I AM
BEGINNING TO
VERY MUCH DISLIKE
THAT MAN.

WHY
ARE YOU
HERE?



THIS IS
WHERE I WAS
SENT.

I WALKED
THROUGH THE DOOR--
THE INHUMAN ELDRAC--
AND WALKED OUT
HERE.

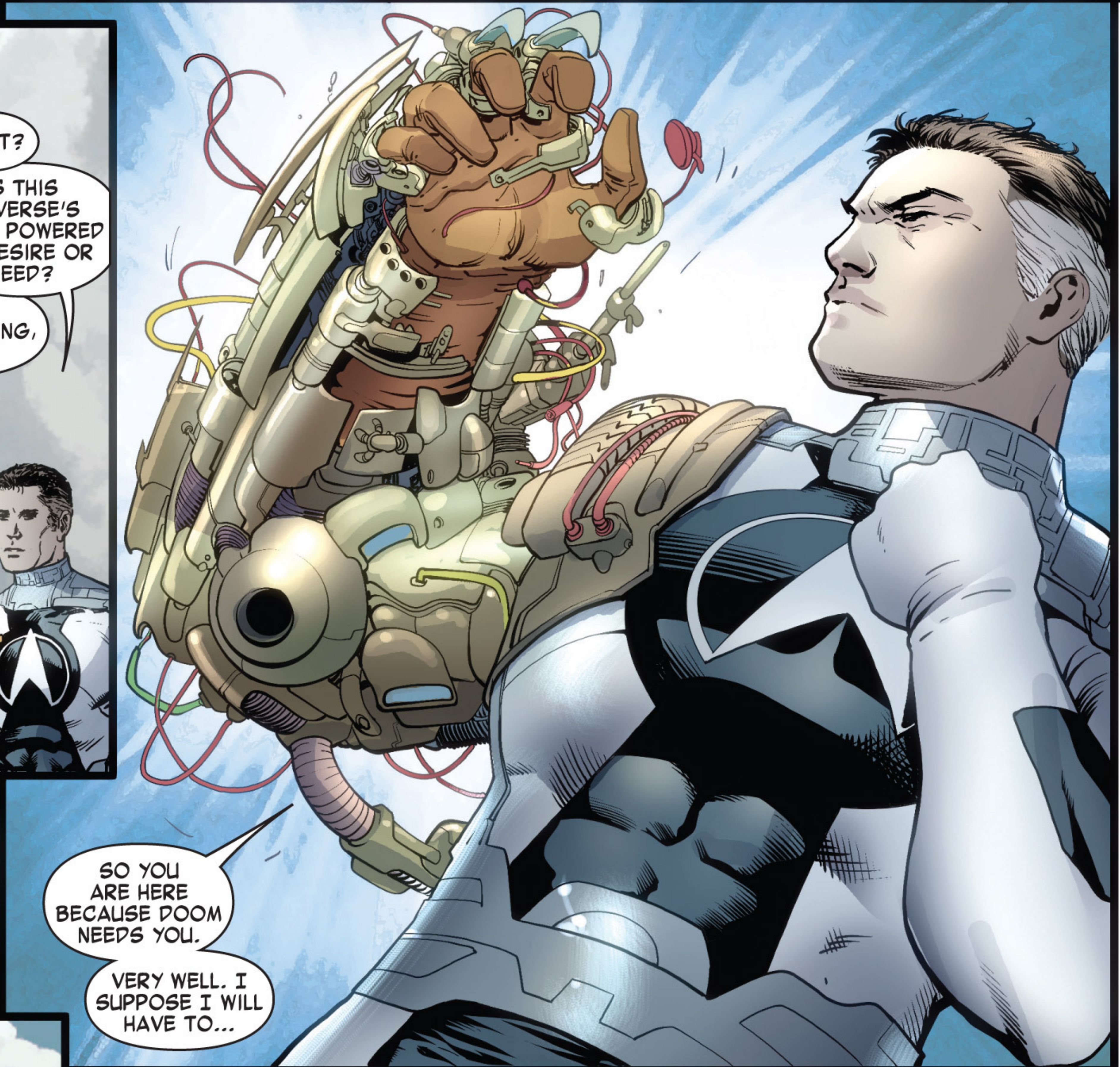
DESIRE
OR NEED?



WHAT?

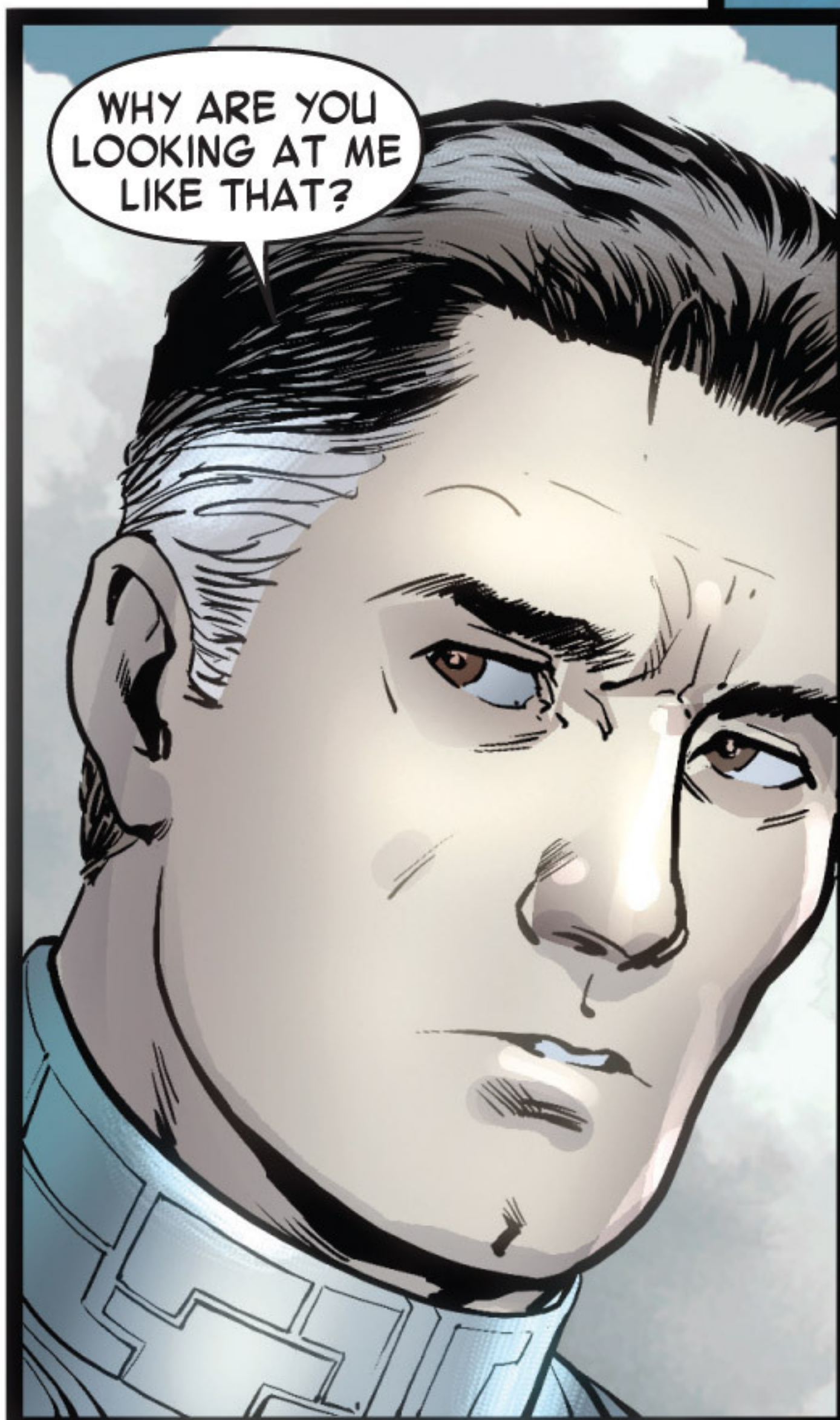
IS THIS
UNIVERSE'S
DOOR POWERED
BY DESIRE OR
NEED?

FROM MY
UNDERSTANDING,
IT'S NEED.

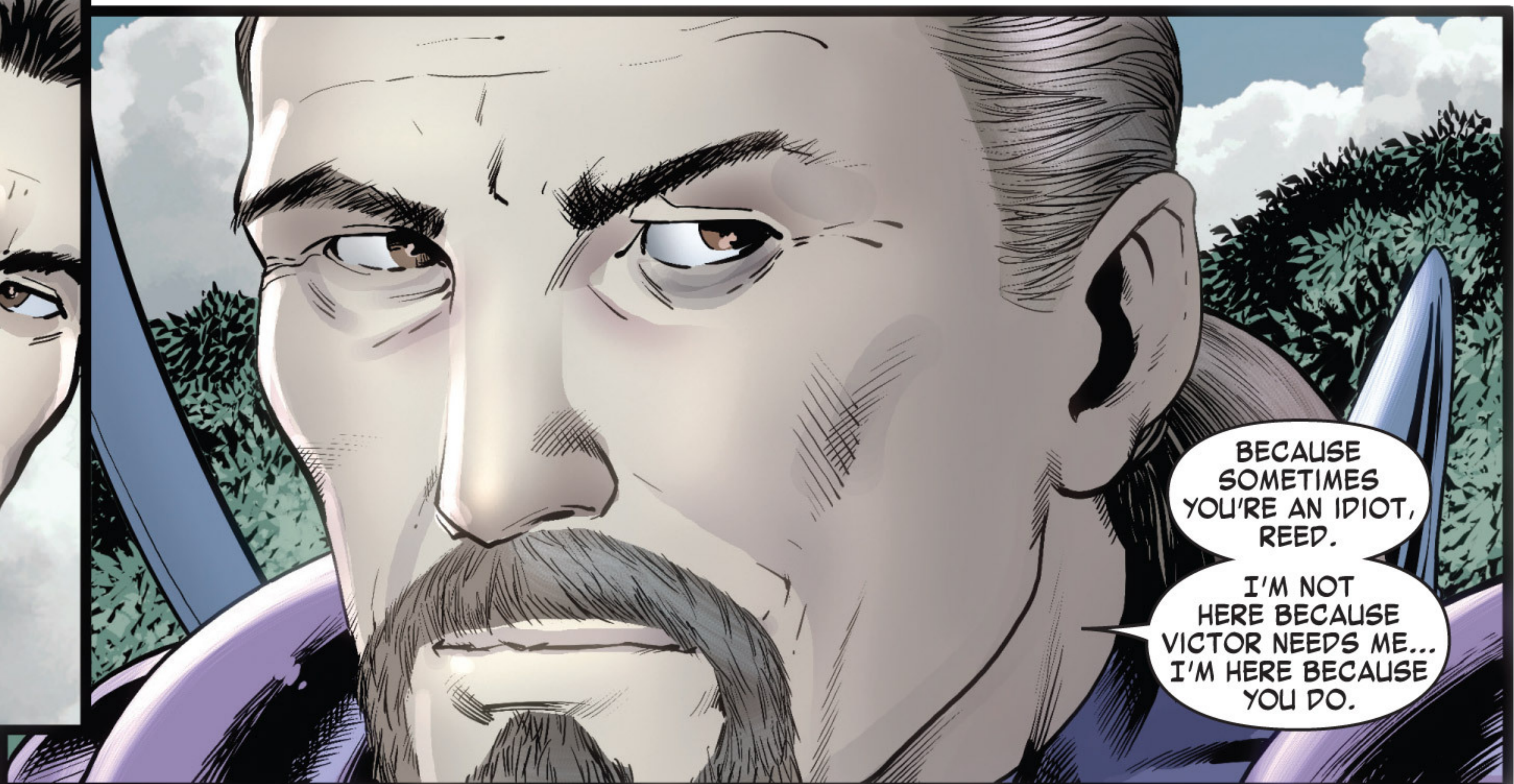


SO YOU
ARE HERE
BECAUSE DOOM
NEEDS YOU.

VERY WELL. I
SUPPOSE I WILL
HAVE TO...



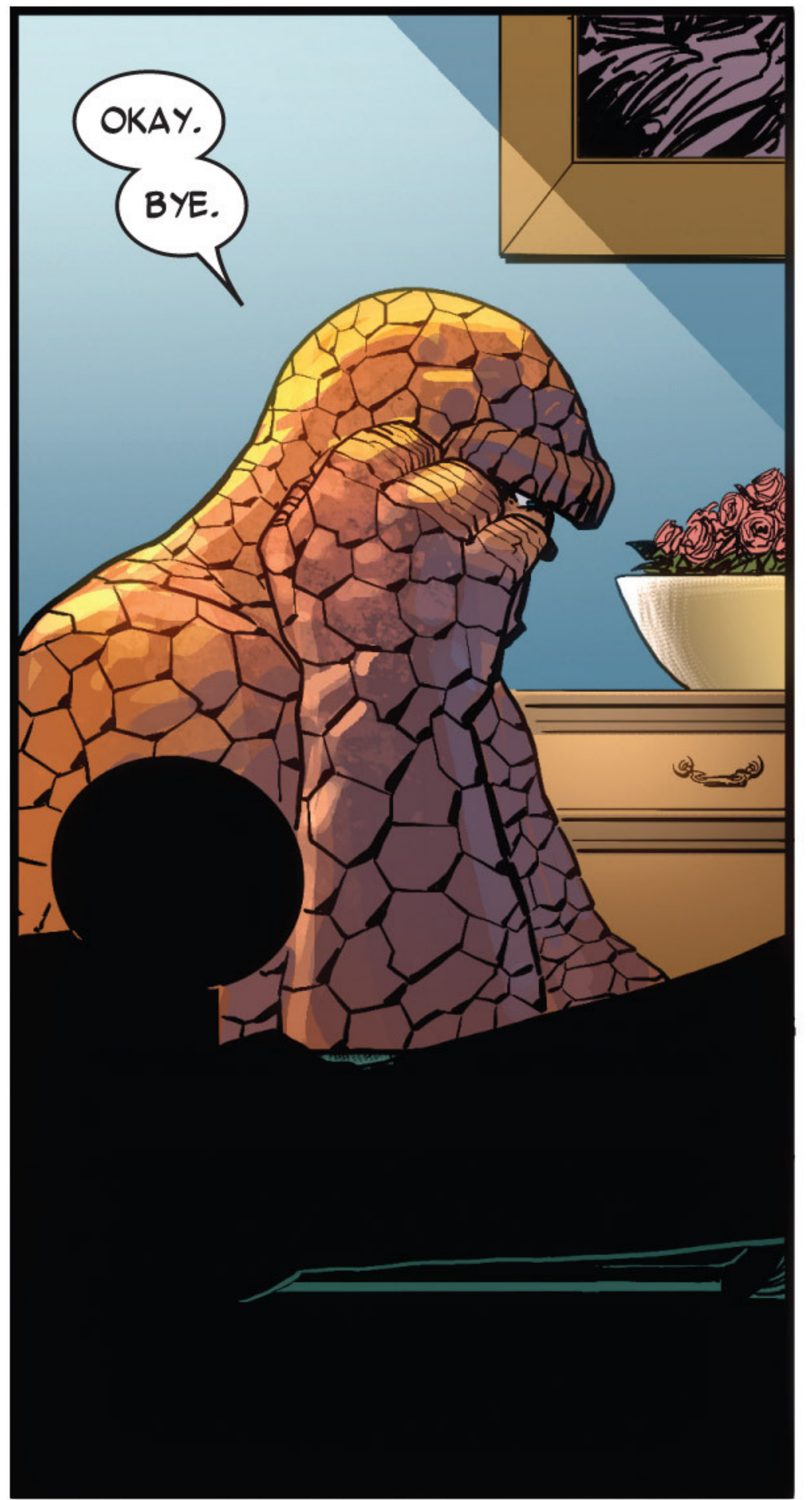
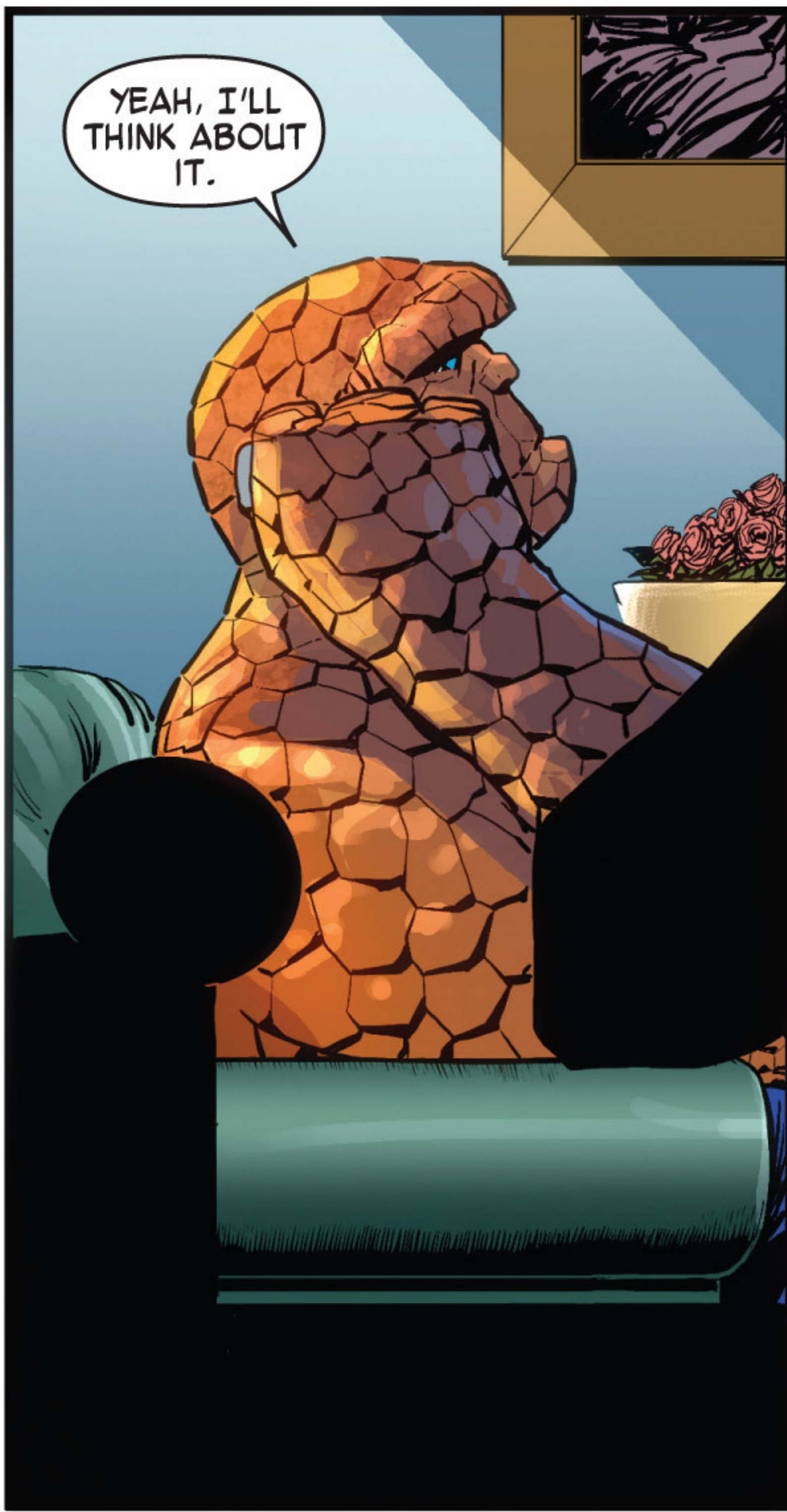
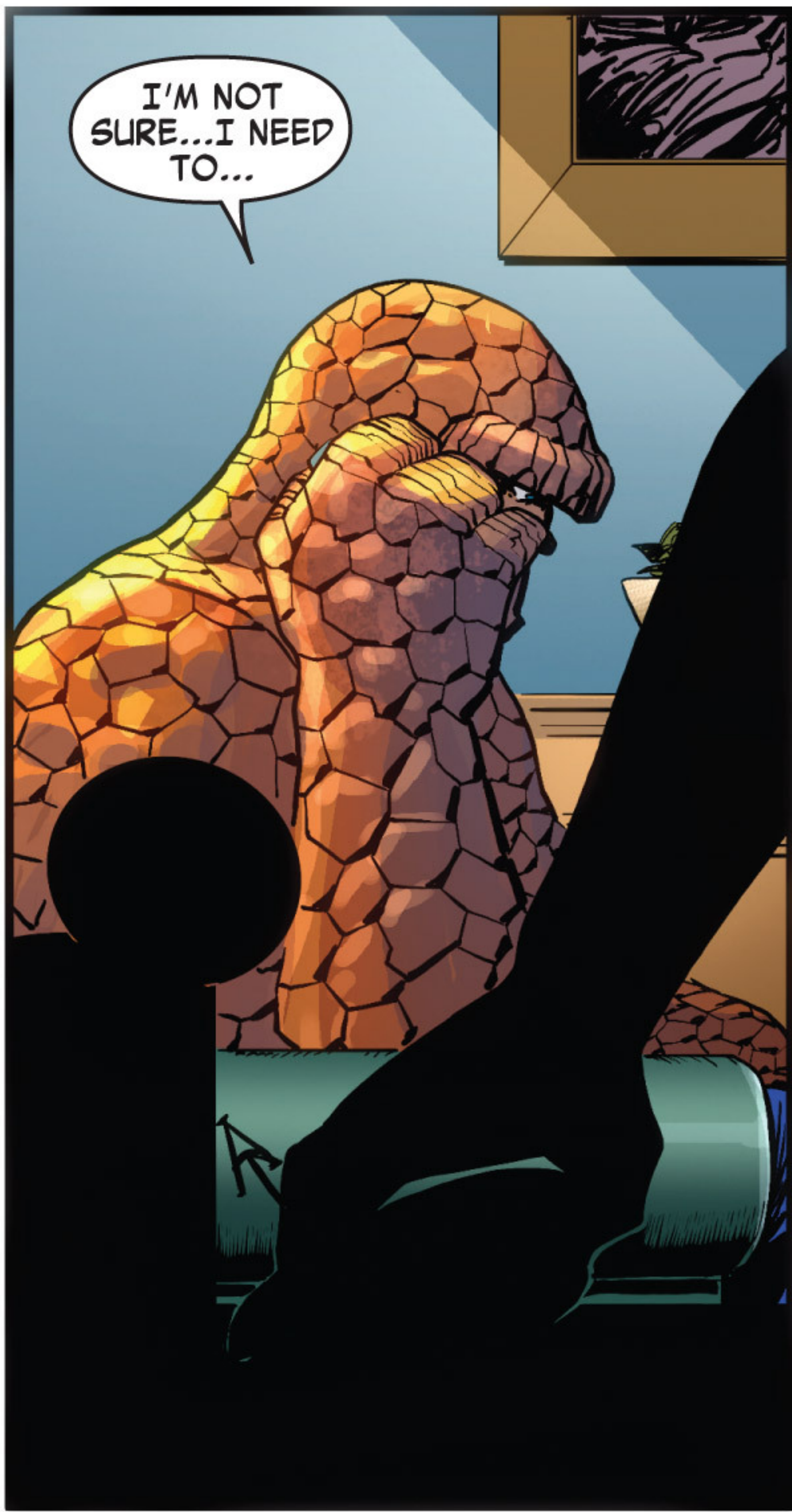
WHY ARE YOU
LOOKING AT ME
LIKE THAT?



BECAUSE
SOMETIMES
YOU'RE AN IDIOT,
REED.

I'M NOT
HERE BECAUSE
VICTOR NEEDS ME...
I'M HERE BECAUSE
YOU DO.







I THINK WHEN I WENT THROUGH THAT DOOR I KEPT SAYING OVER AND OVER IN MY MIND...

I NEED TO GO TO TAHITI.

I NEED A MILLION DOLLARS.

I NEED A NEW GIRLFRIEND.



WHAT DO I GET? A JARVIS BURGER AND A FRUITY DRINK.

UH-HUH. SO...



CHOMP!

SO...WHAT I THINK IS THAT I NEEDED TO BE HERE TO TELL YOU SOMETHING.

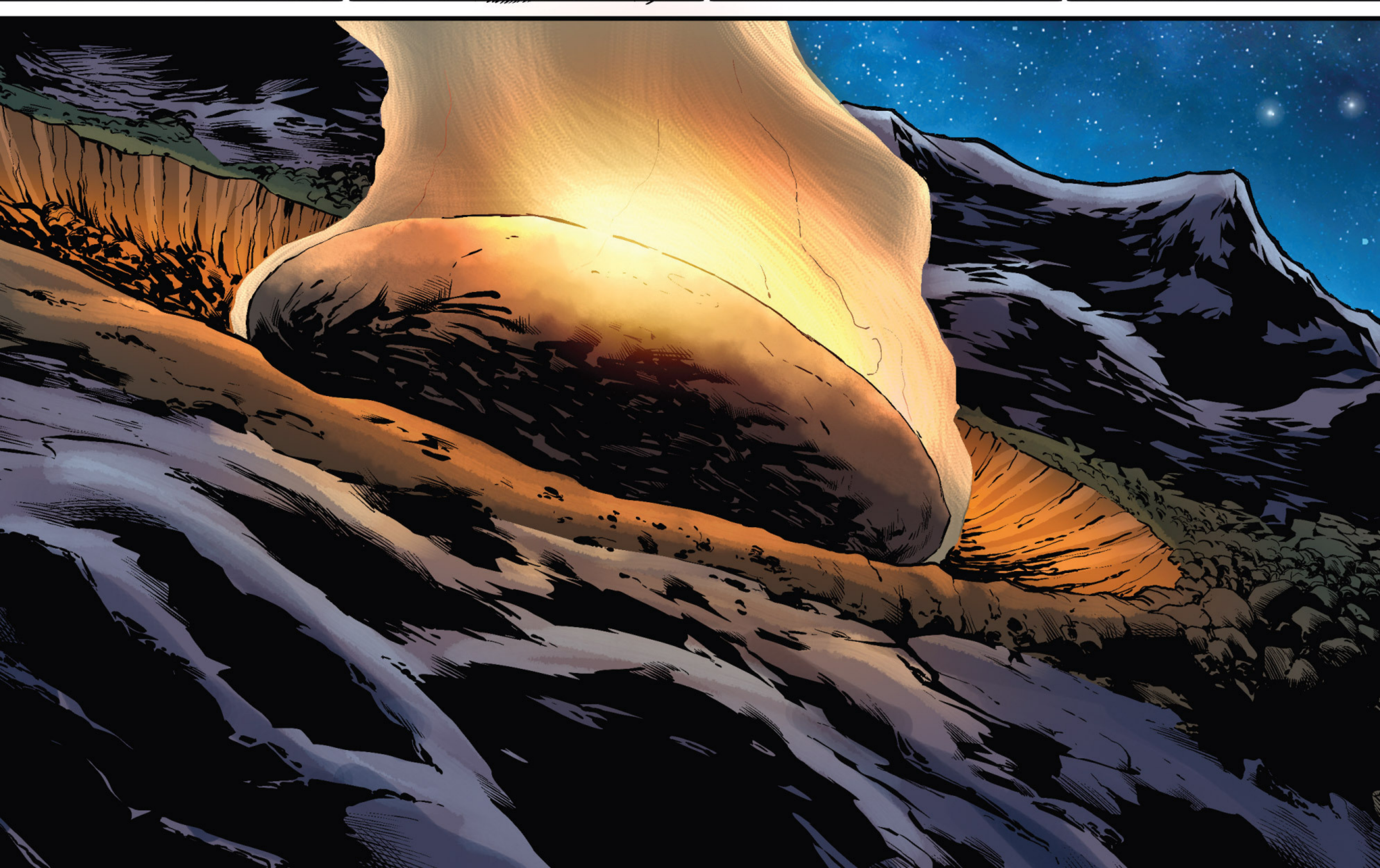


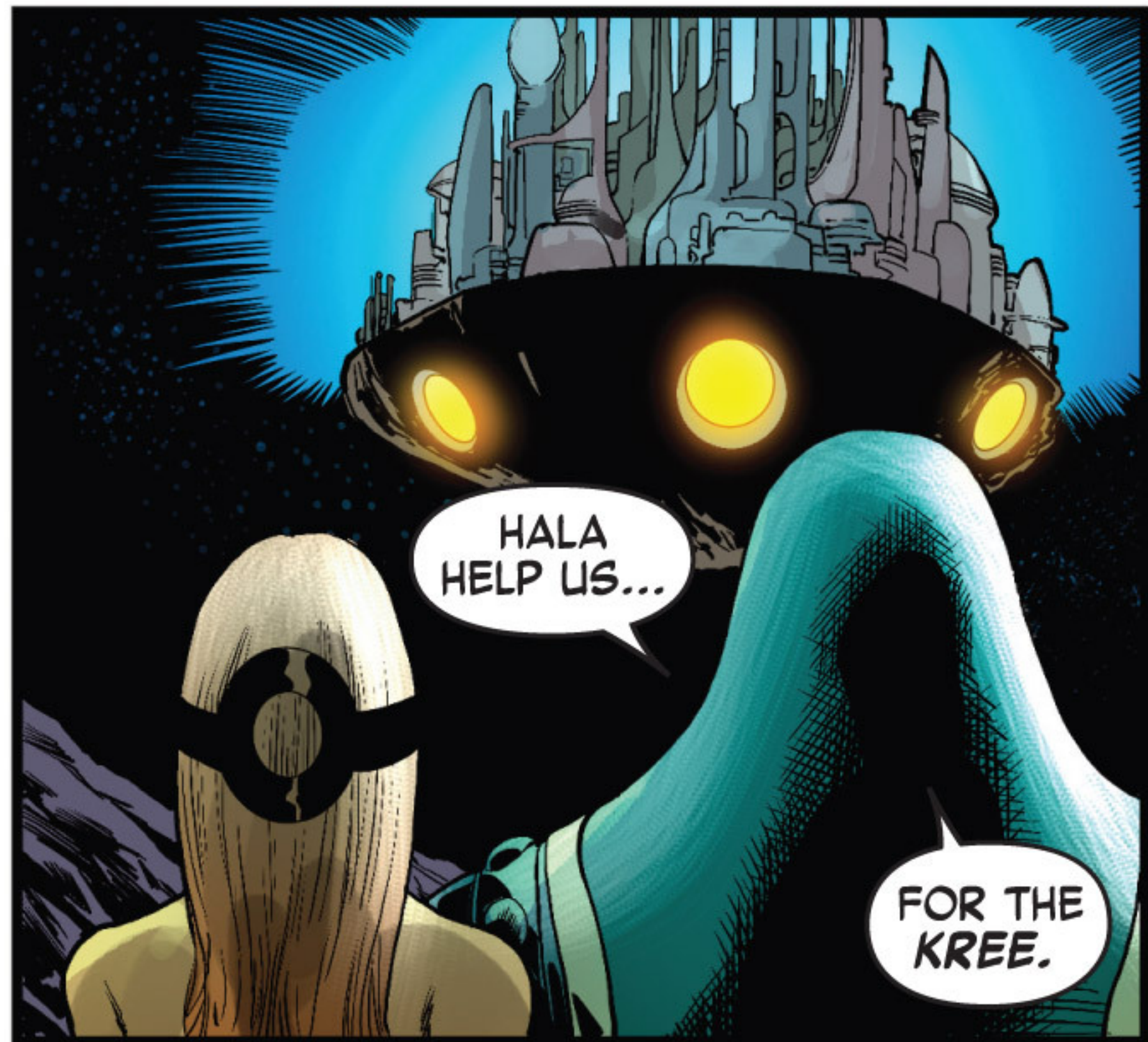
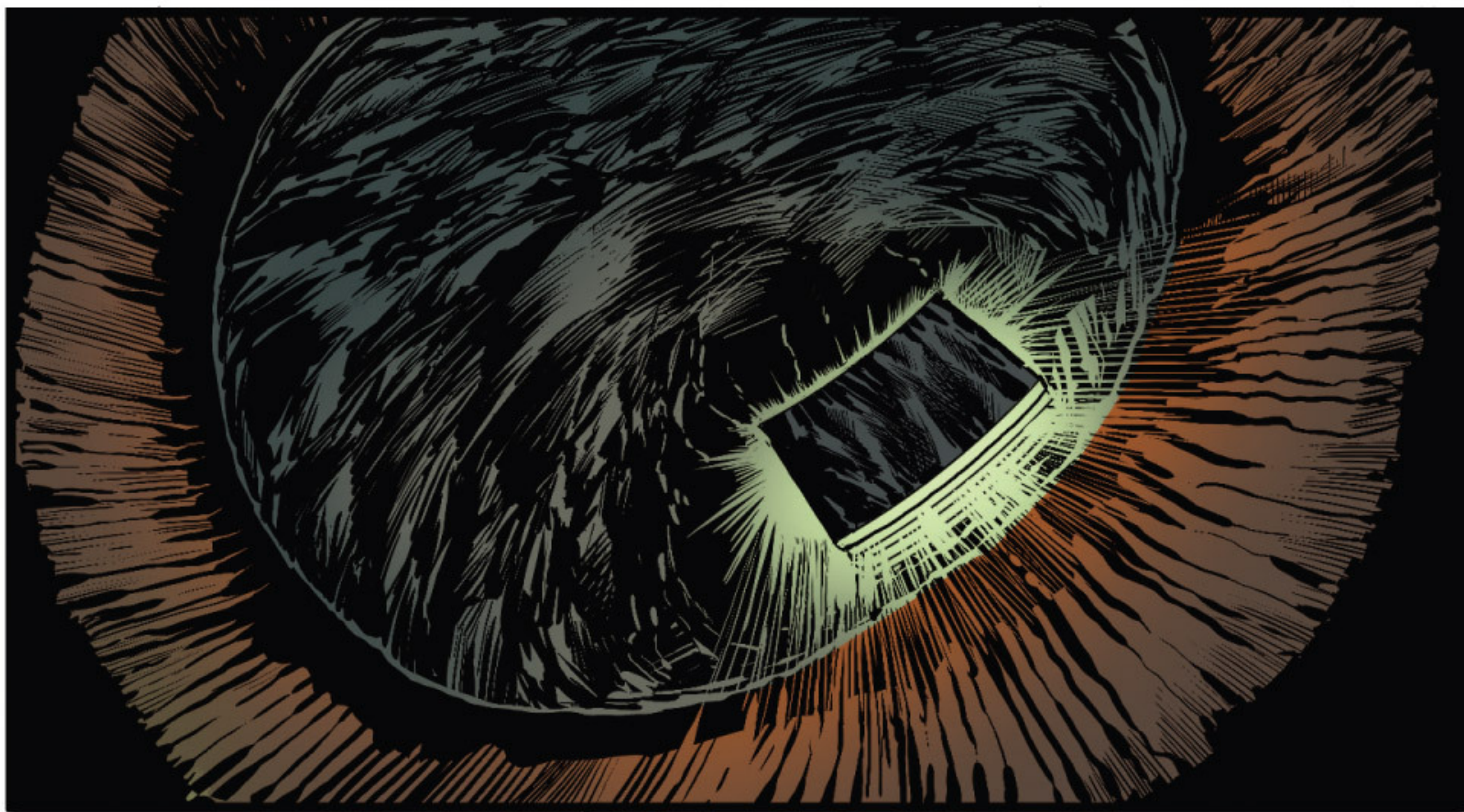
AND WHAT'S THAT?

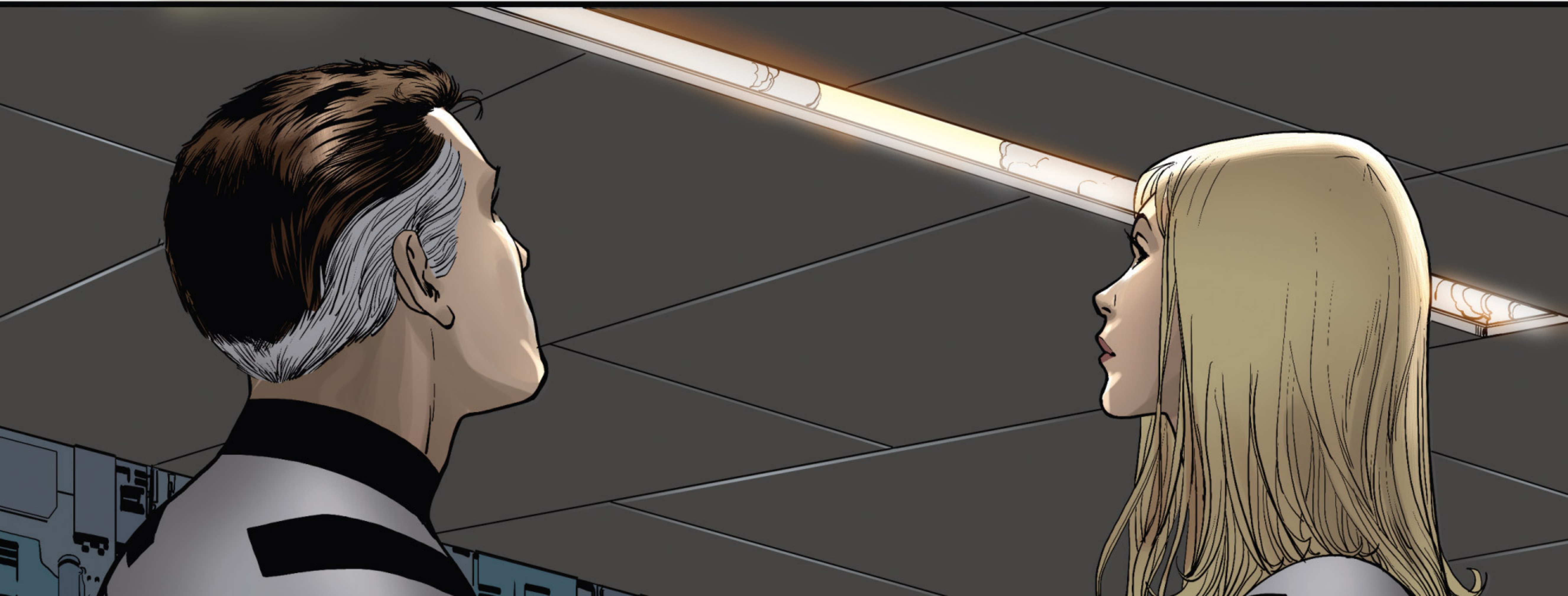
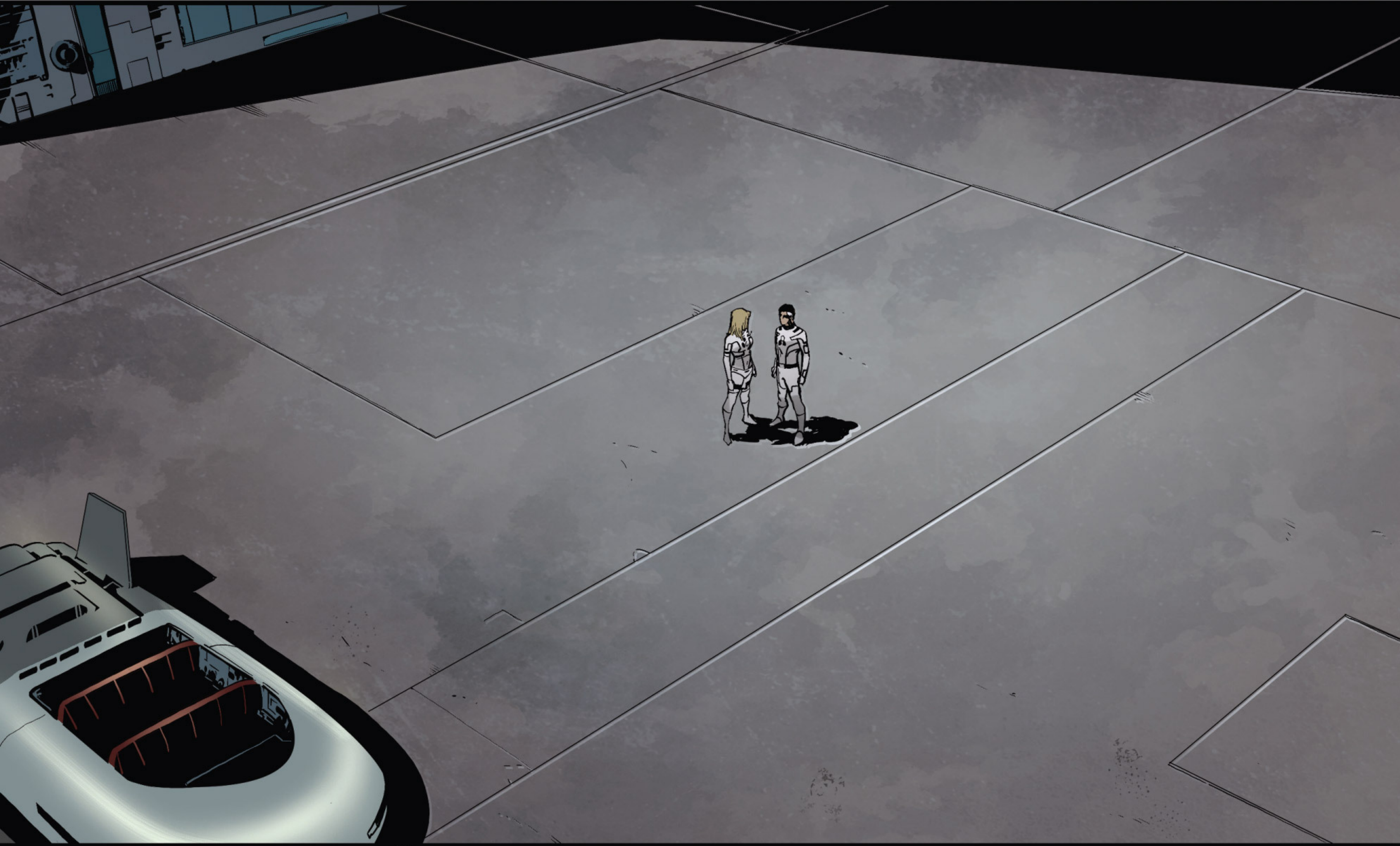
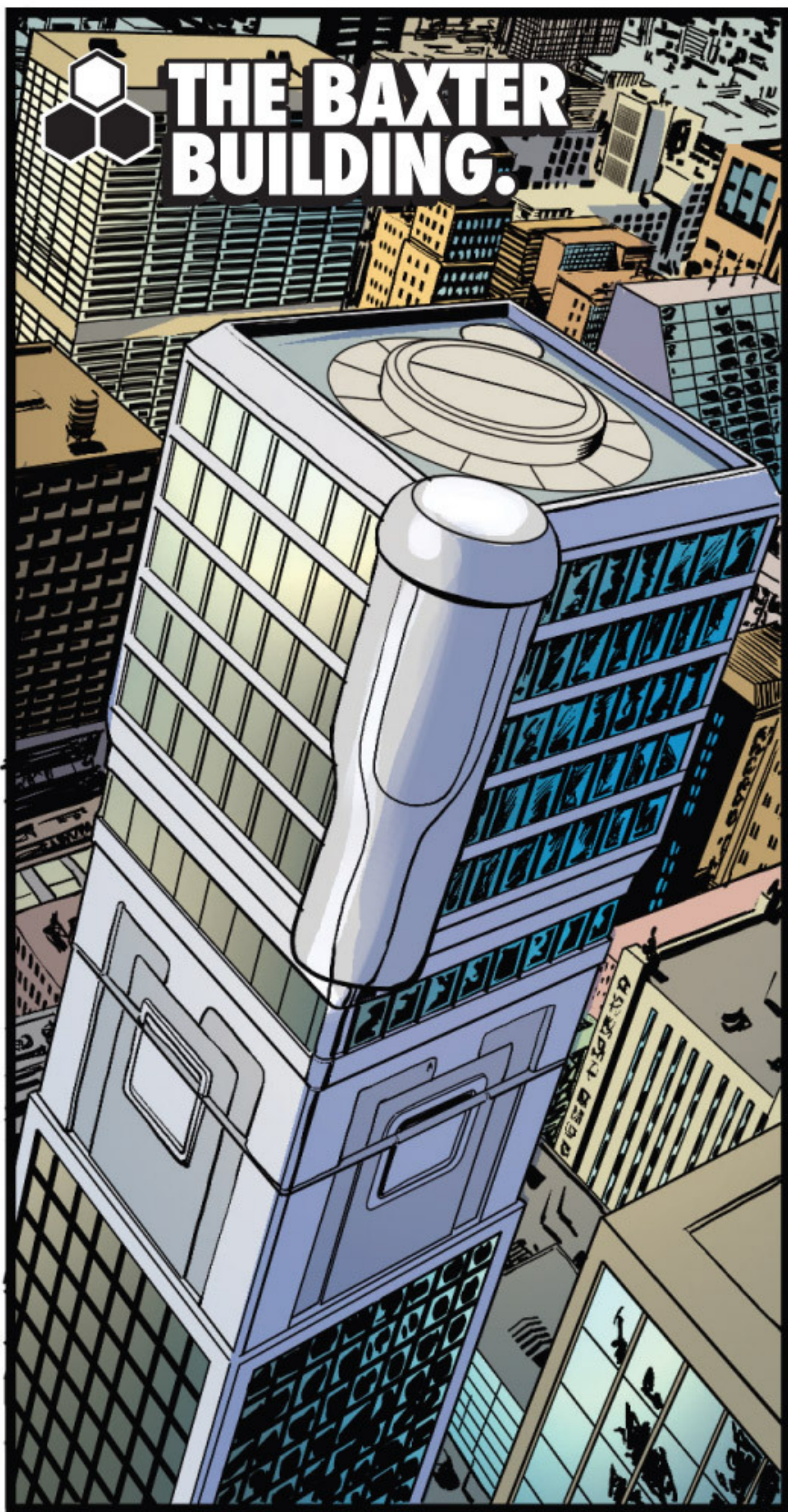
GO HOME.

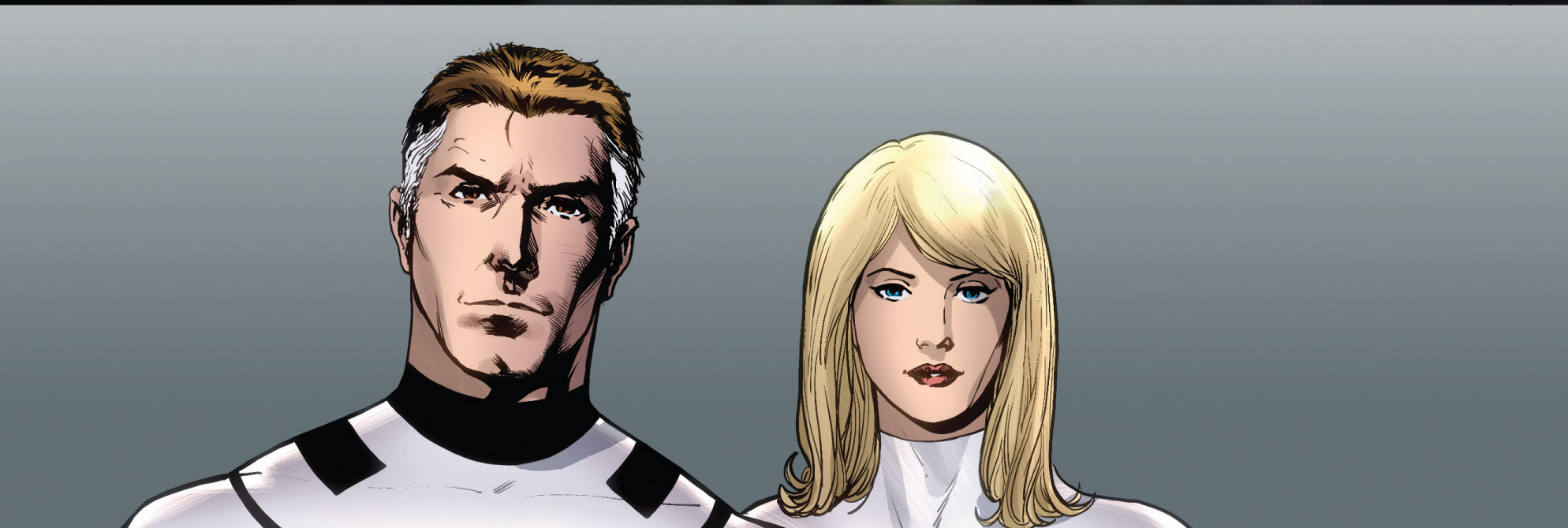
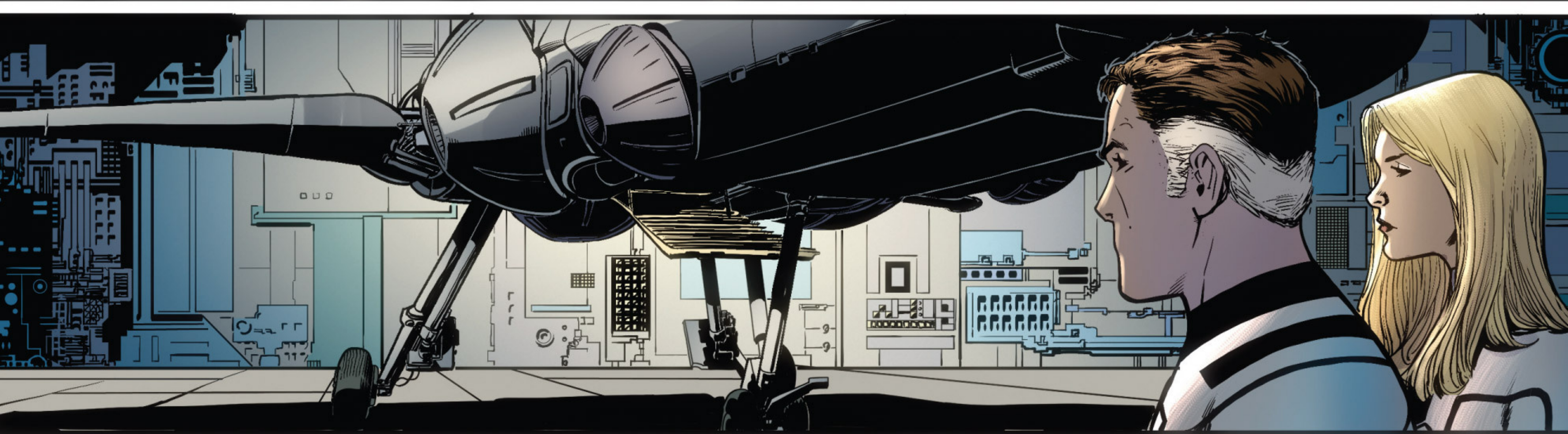
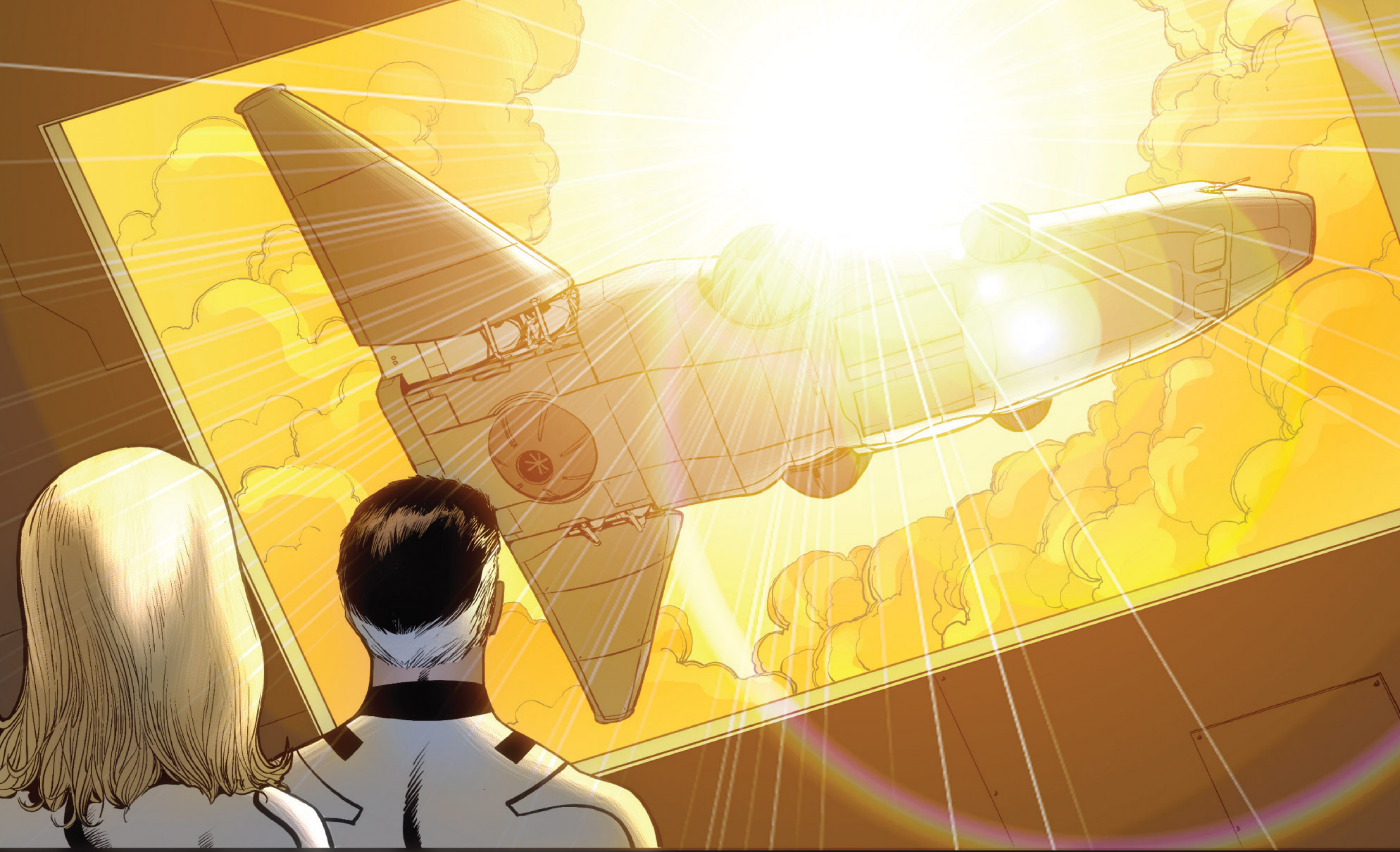


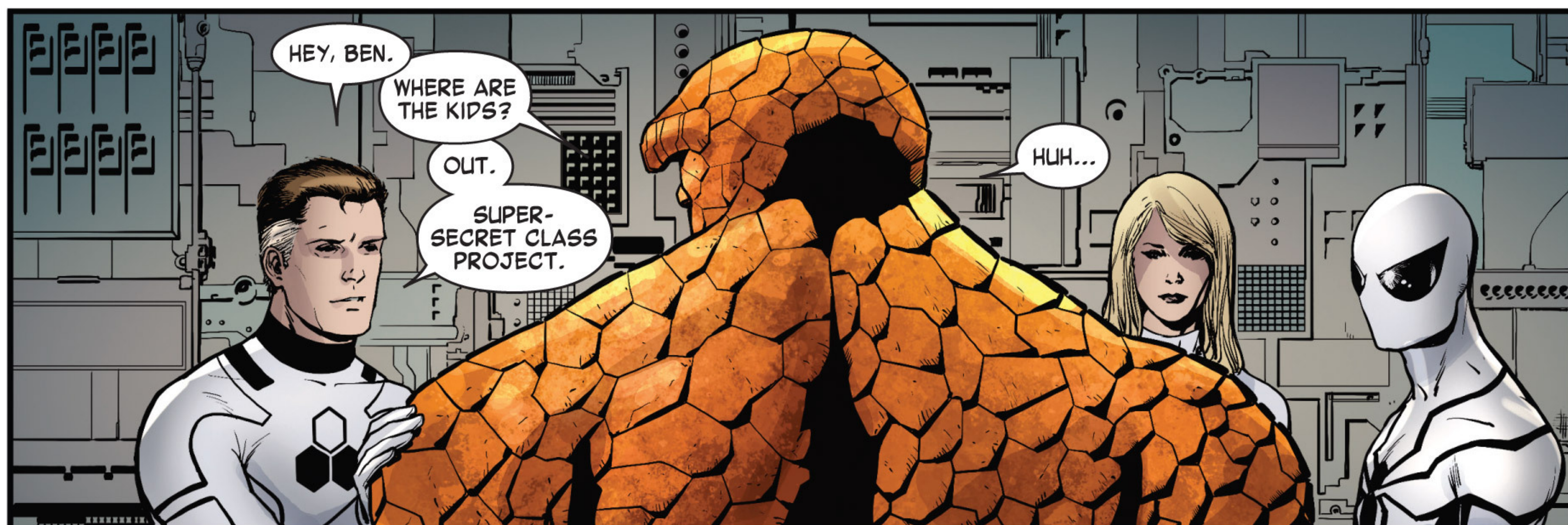
ATTILAN,
HOME CITADEL
OF THE
INHUMANS.













...SO
I BROUGHT
ALONG A FEW
FRIENDS.





NEXT ISSUE:

**WHO WILL REIGN
SUPREME?**

HICKMAN

•

KITSON

•

MOUNTS

MARVEL

11

TM

IN ORDER TO RETURN TO THEIR OWN DIMENSION, THE **LAST FOUR REEDS OF THE INTERDIMENSIONAL COUNCIL** INTEND TO BRING ABOUT THE **WAR OF THE FOUR CITIES**. TWO OF THESE REEDS HAVE BEEN CAPTURED BY THE **INHUMANS**. **RONAN THE ACCUSER** HAS RESUMED CONTROL OF THE KREE EMPIRE AND MOBILIZES IT AGAINST THE INHUMANS IN AN OFFENSIVE PREDICTED EONS AGO BY THE NOW-DECEASED KREE **SUPREME INTELLIGENCE**. THE **THING** HAS RETURNED TO THE BAXTER BUILDING, BRINGING ALLIES IN THE FORM OF THE **AVENGERS** AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE SUPER HERO COMMUNITY.



REED RICHARDS,
MISTER FANTASTIC



SUSAN RICHARDS,
THE INVISIBLE WOMAN



BENJAMIN GRIMM,
THE THING



SPIDER-MAN



VALERIA RICHARDS



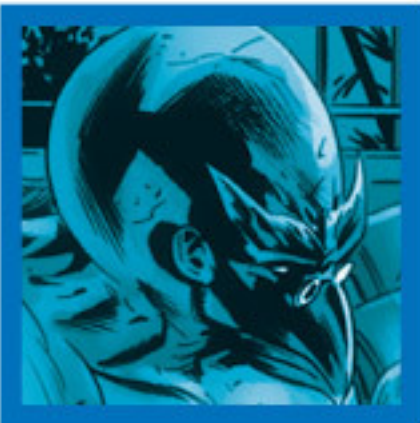
FRANKLIN RICHARDS



NATHANIEL RICHARDS



DOCTOR DOOM



DRAGON MAN



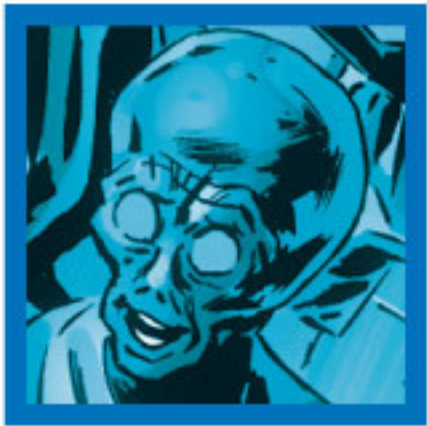
WU & VIL



MIK, KOR & TURG



TONG



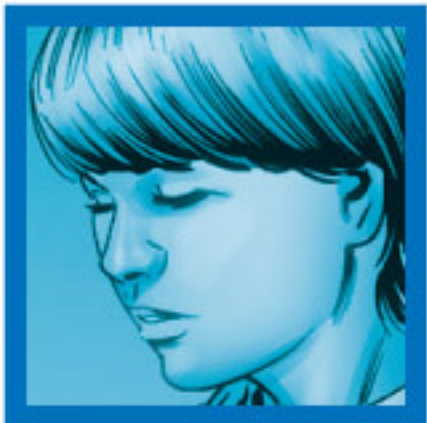
LEECH



ARTIE



BENTLEY



ALEX POWER

WRITER: **JONATHAN HICKMAN**

ARTIST: **BARRY KITSON**

FINISHERS: **KITSON, HANNA, KOBLISH,
LEISTEN & PENNINGTON**

COLOR ARTIST: **PAUL MOUNTS**

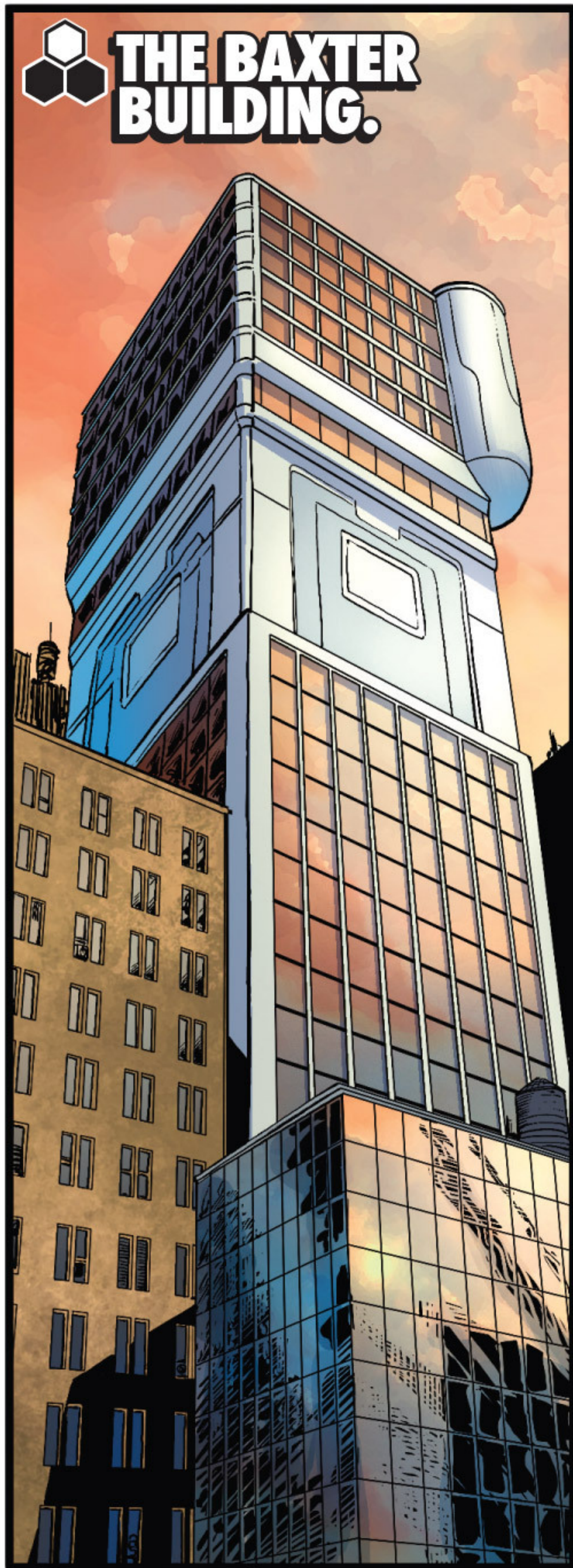
LETTERER: **VC's CLAYTON COWLES**

COVER ARTIST: **STEVE EPTING**

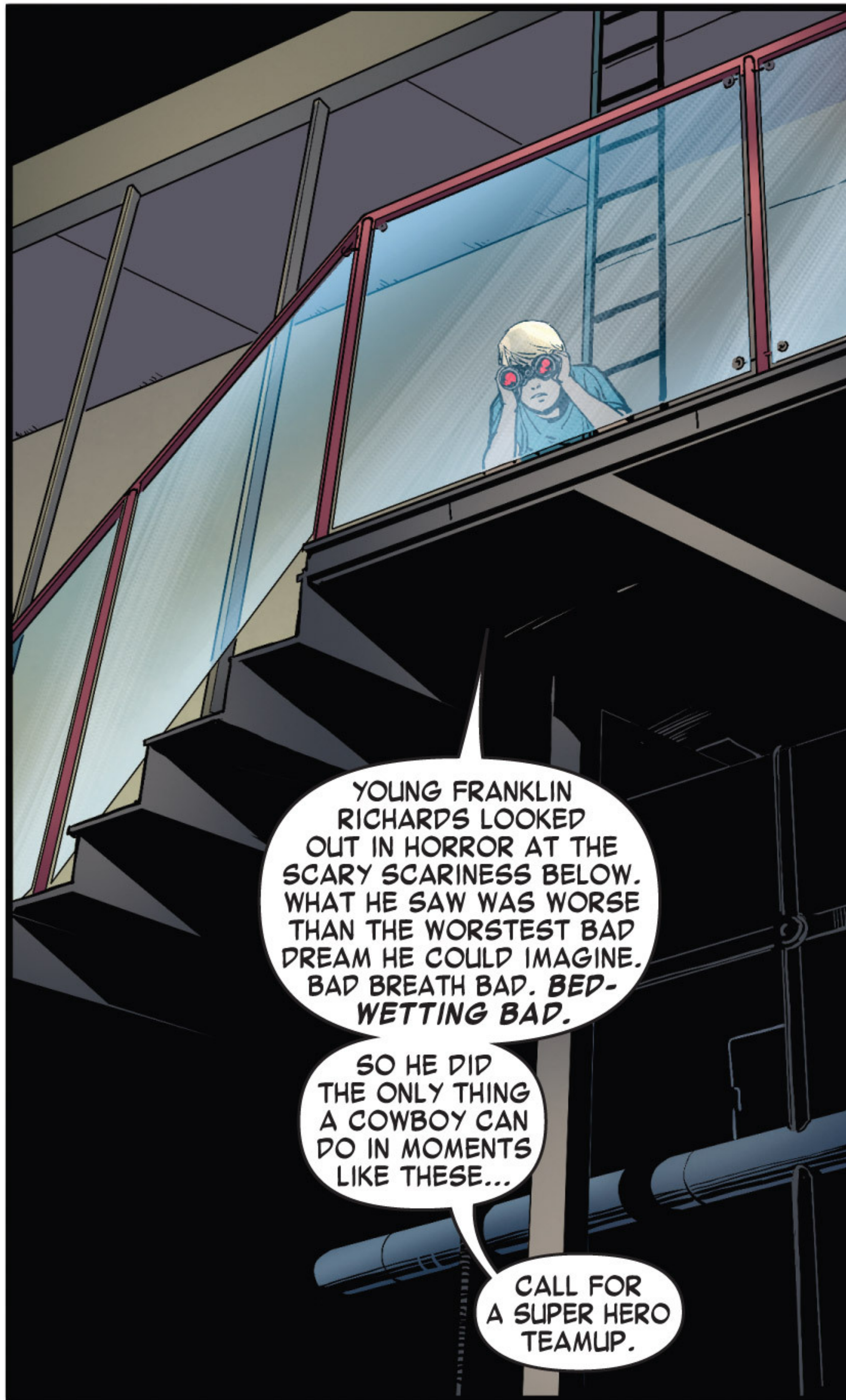
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SUPREME INTELLIGENCE: STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY



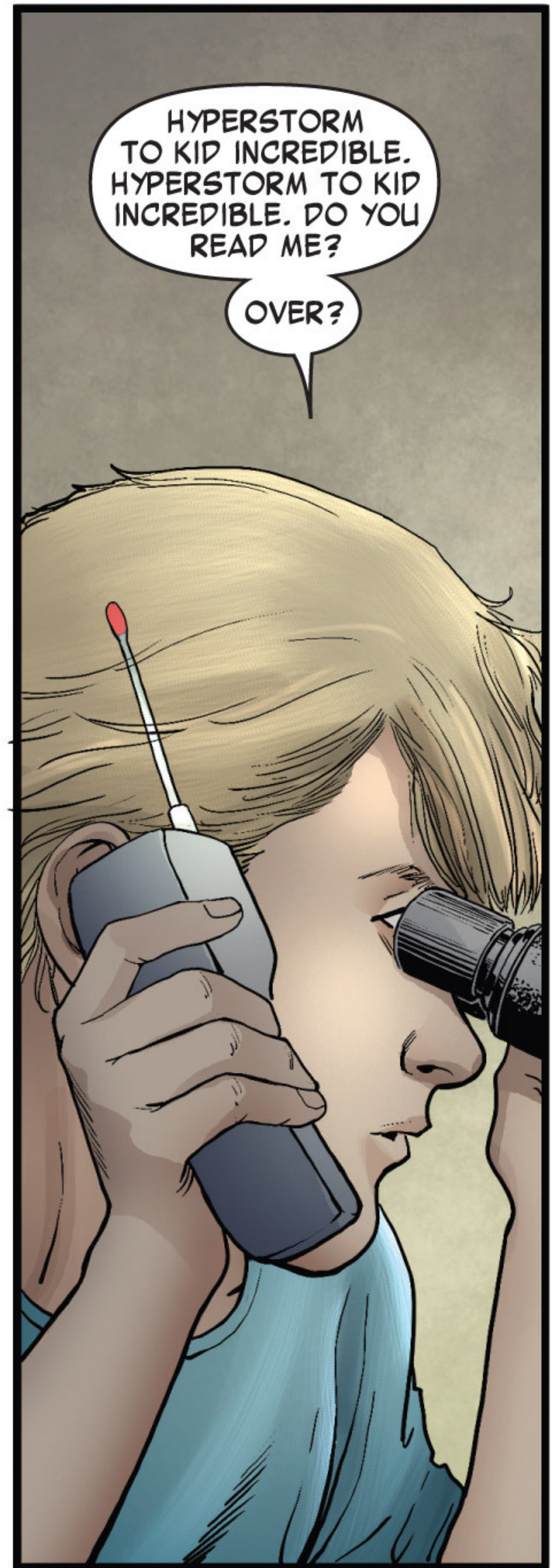
 THE BAXTER BUILDING.



YOUNG FRANKLIN RICHARDS LOOKED OUT IN HORROR AT THE SCARY SCARINESS BELOW. WHAT HE SAW WAS WORSE THAN THE WORSTEST BAD DREAM HE COULD IMAGINE. BAD BREATH BAD. *BED-WETTING BAD.*

SO HE DID THE ONLY THING A COWBOY CAN DO IN MOMENTS LIKE THESE...

CALL FOR A SUPER HERO TEAMUP.



HYPERSTORM TO KID INCREDIBLE. HYPERSTORM TO KID INCREDIBLE. DO YOU READ ME?

OVER?



OVER.

OVER.

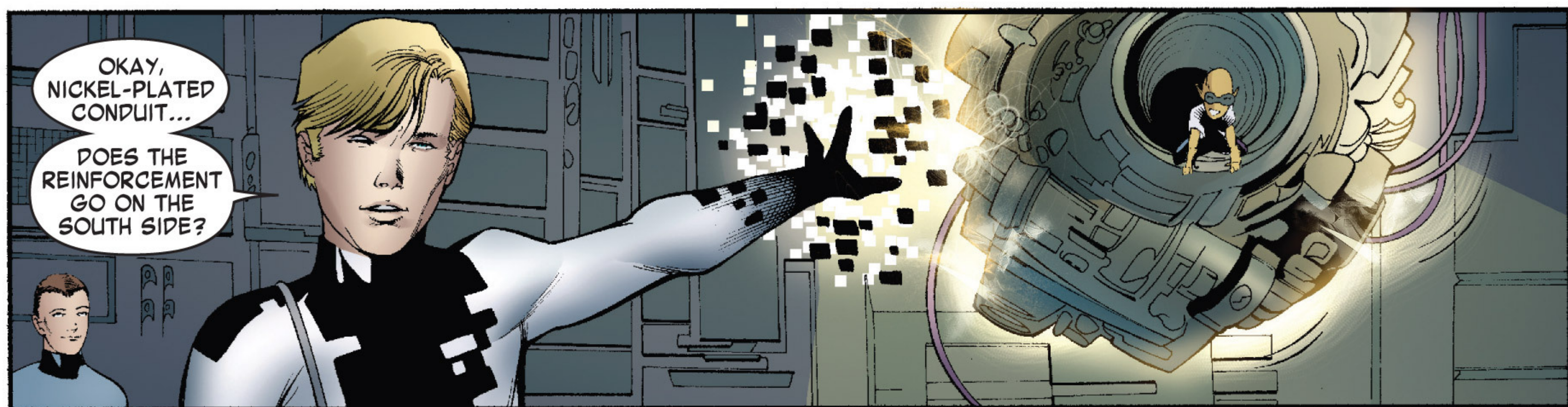
OKAY.

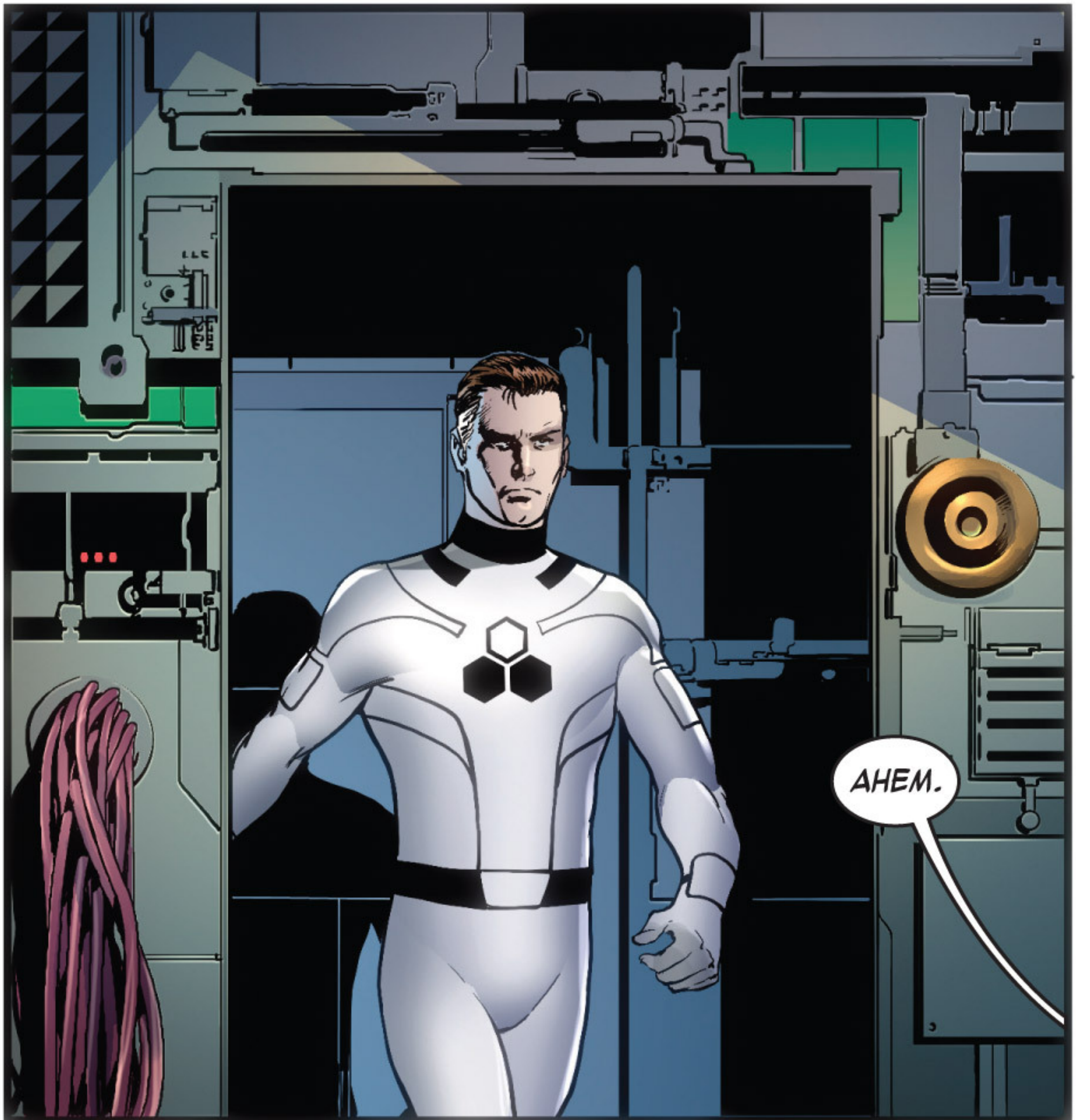
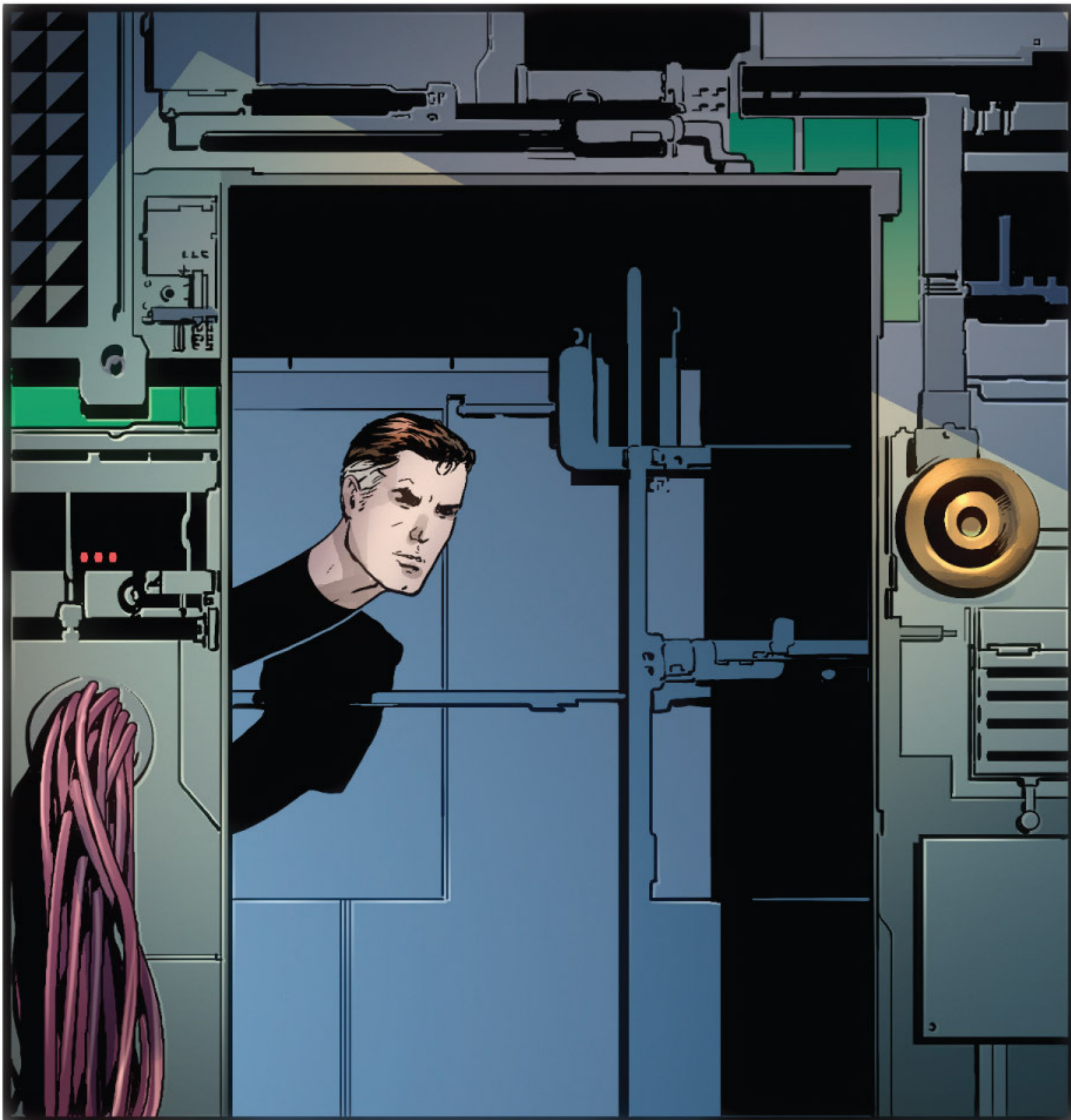
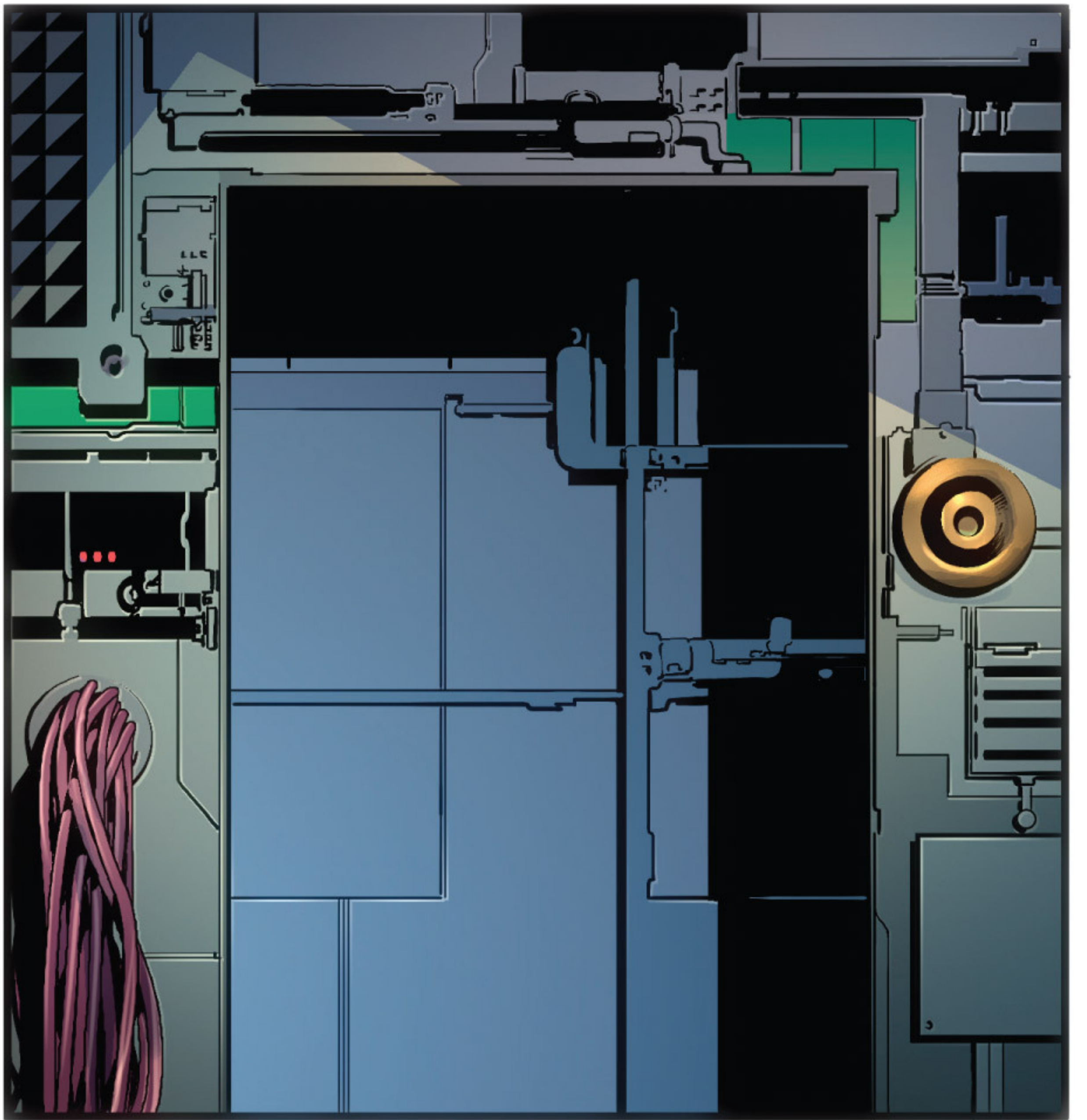
OVER.

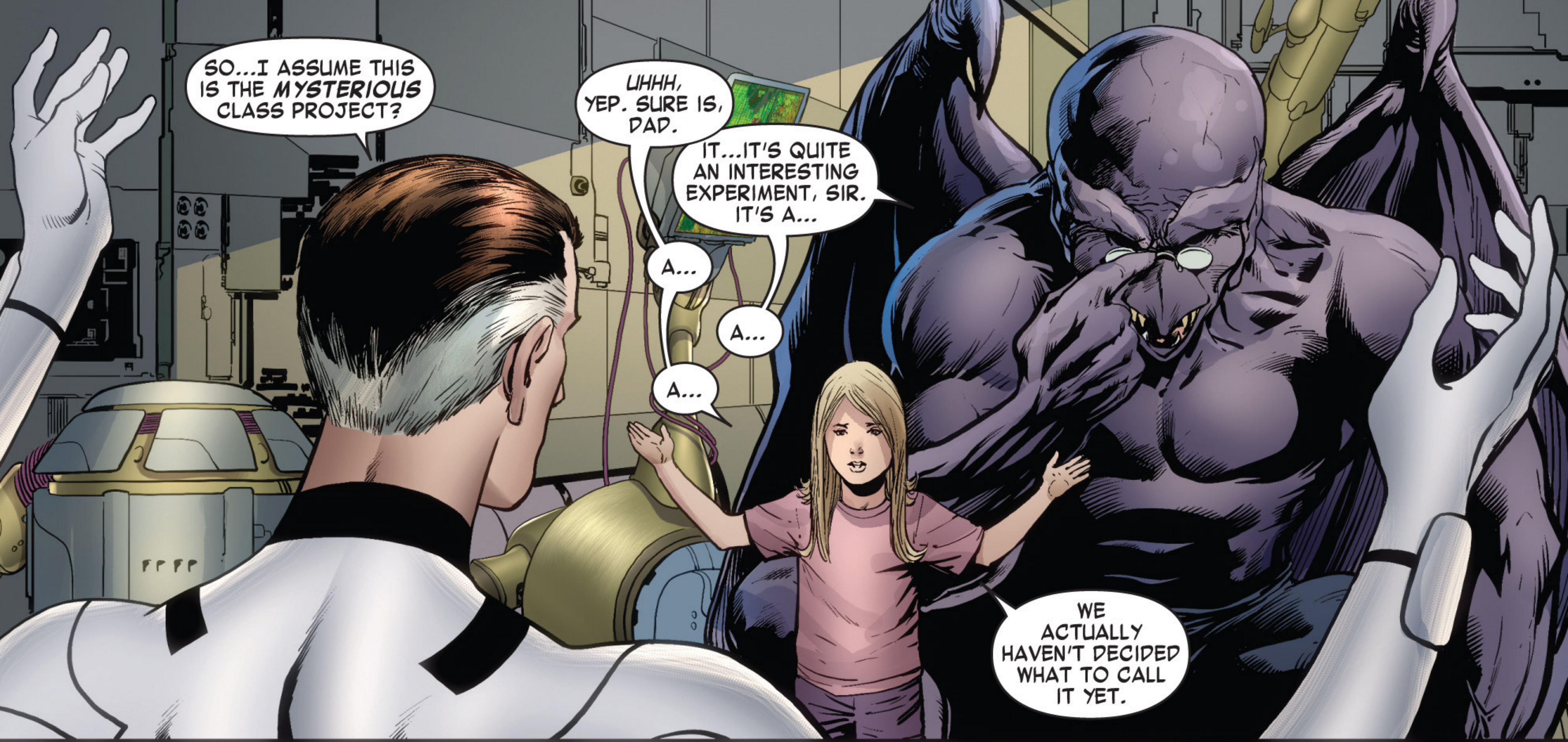
OVER.

NO, LEECH, I SAY 'OVER' AND THEN YOU SAY SOMETHING ELSE BACK...OKAY?









SO...I ASSUME THIS IS THE MYSTERIOUS CLASS PROJECT?

UHHH, YEP. SURE IS, DAD.

IT...IT'S QUITE AN INTERESTING EXPERIMENT, SIR. IT'S A...

A...

A...

A...

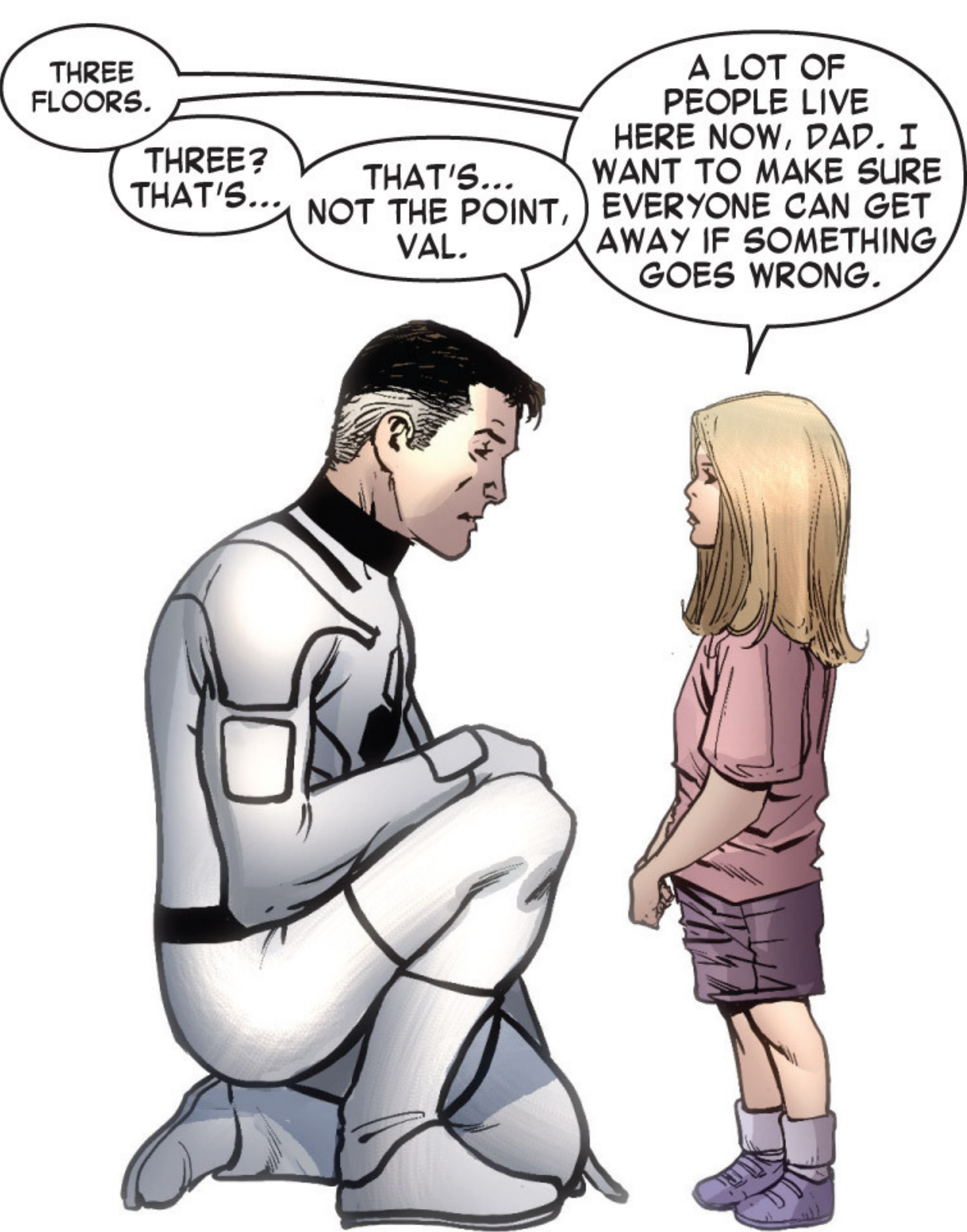
WE ACTUALLY HAVEN'T DECIDED WHAT TO CALL IT YET.



DO YOU HONESTLY THINK I CAN'T FIGURE THIS OUT BY LOOKING AROUND, VAL?

FIELD GENERATORS, I SEE THE HEAVY-DUTY CONDUIT, NAVIGATION BUOYS TO PREVENT SHEAR, AND YOU'VE CLEARLY PATCHED INTO THE INTEGRATED H.E.R.B.I.E. SUB-ARCHITECTURE...

YOU WANT TO EXPLAIN WHY YOU'RE EXPANDING THE TRANSLOCATOR TO COVER THE ENTIRE FLOOR?

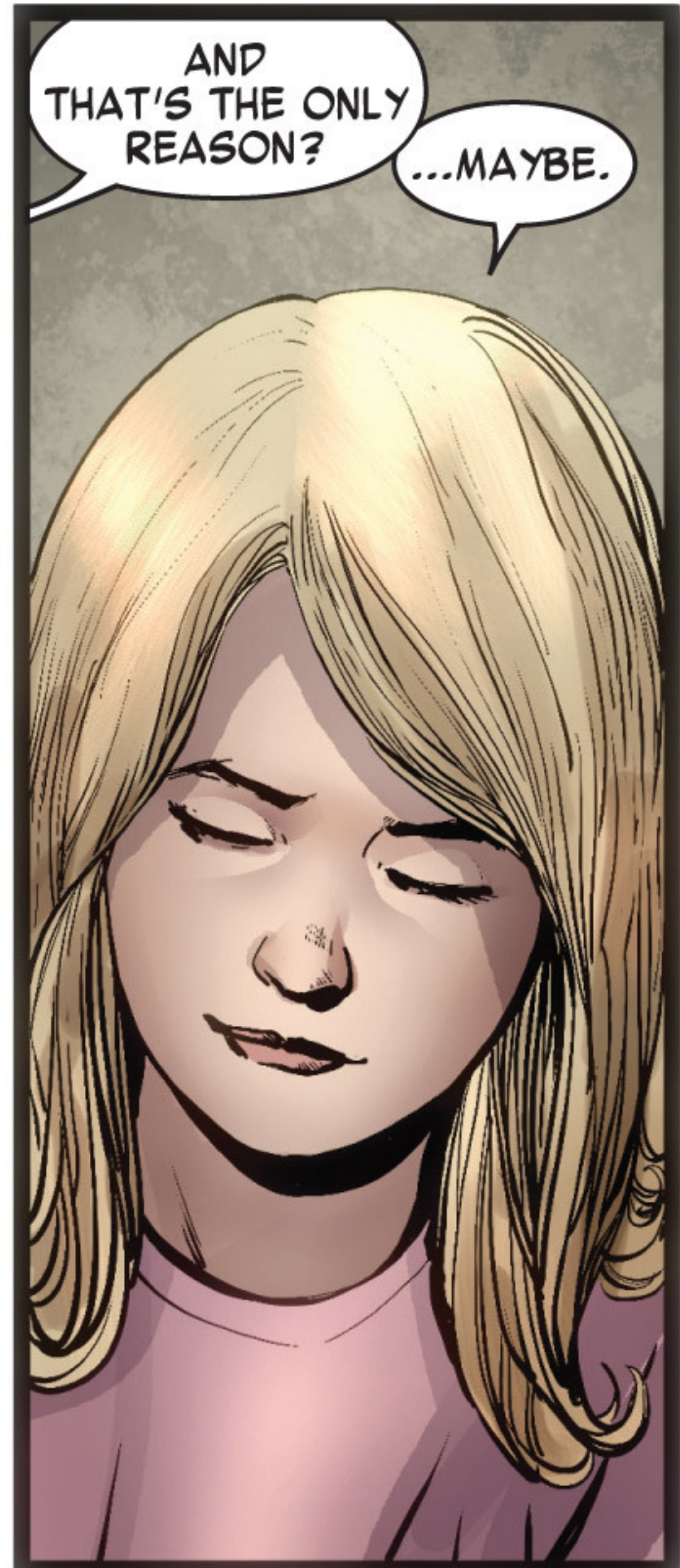


THREE FLOORS.

THREE? THAT'S...

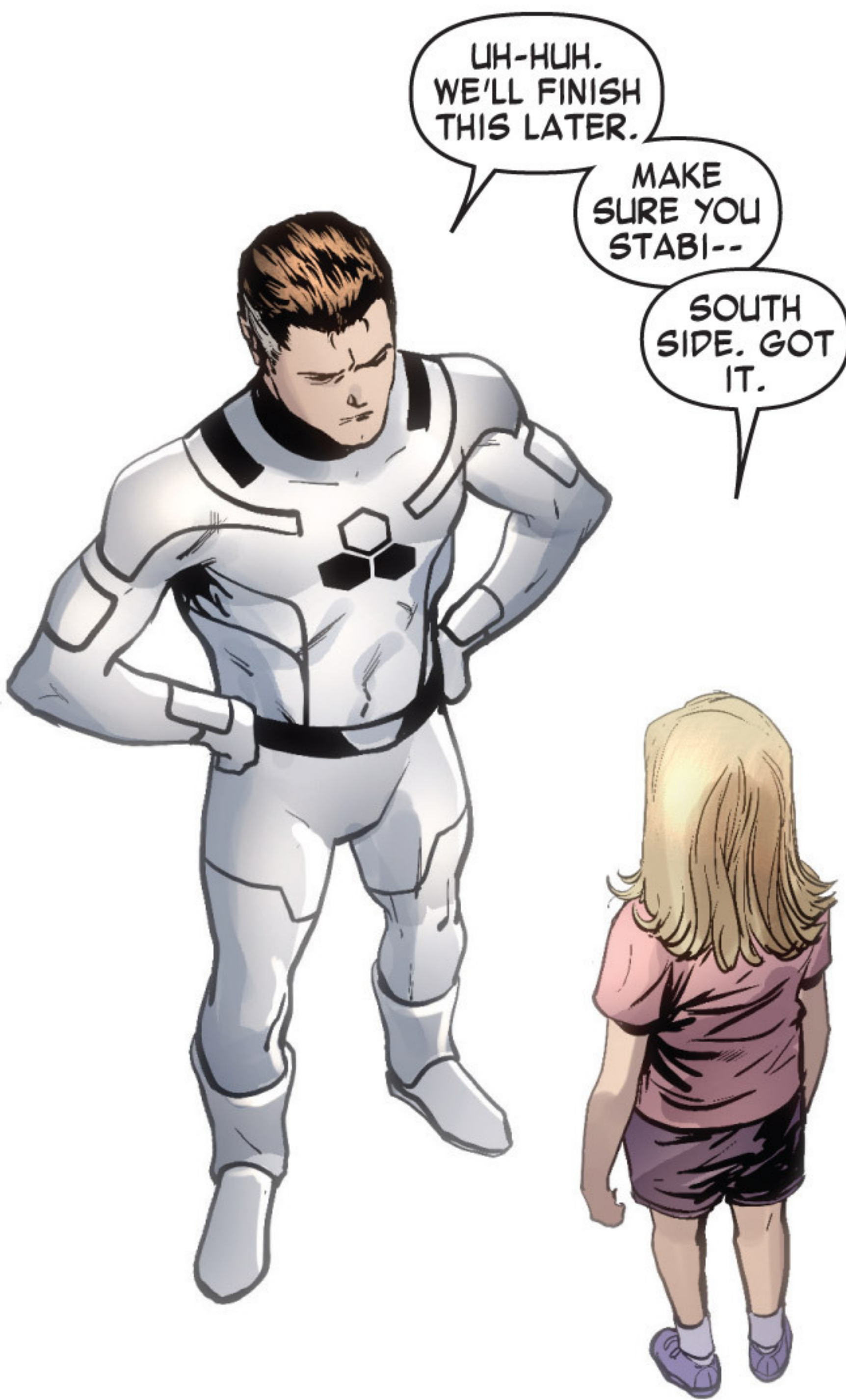
THAT'S... NOT THE POINT, VAL.

A LOT OF PEOPLE LIVE HERE NOW, DAD. I WANT TO MAKE SURE EVERYONE CAN GET AWAY IF SOMETHING GOES WRONG.



AND THAT'S THE ONLY REASON?

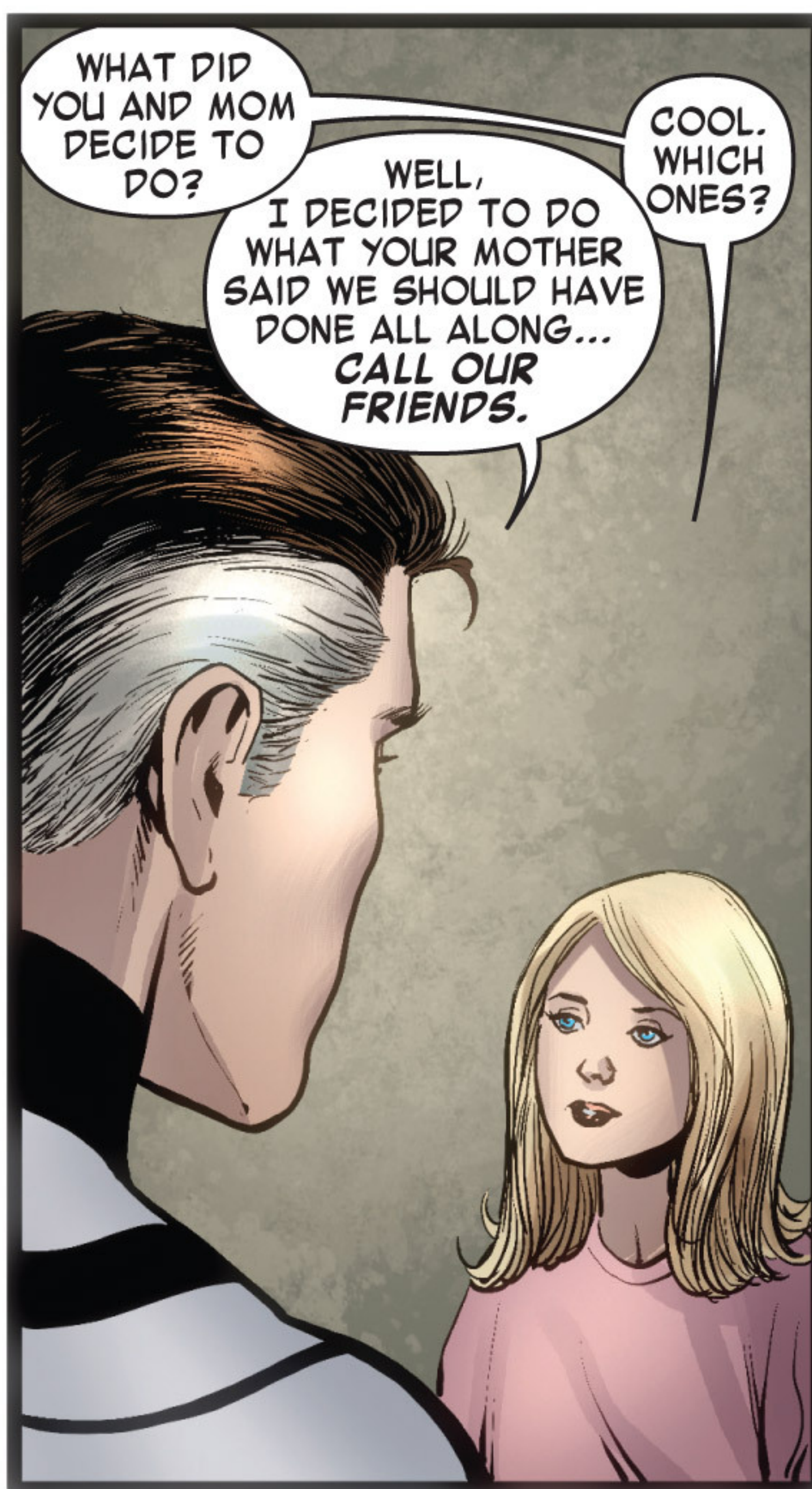
...MAYBE.



UH-HUH. WE'LL FINISH THIS LATER.

MAKE SURE YOU STABI--

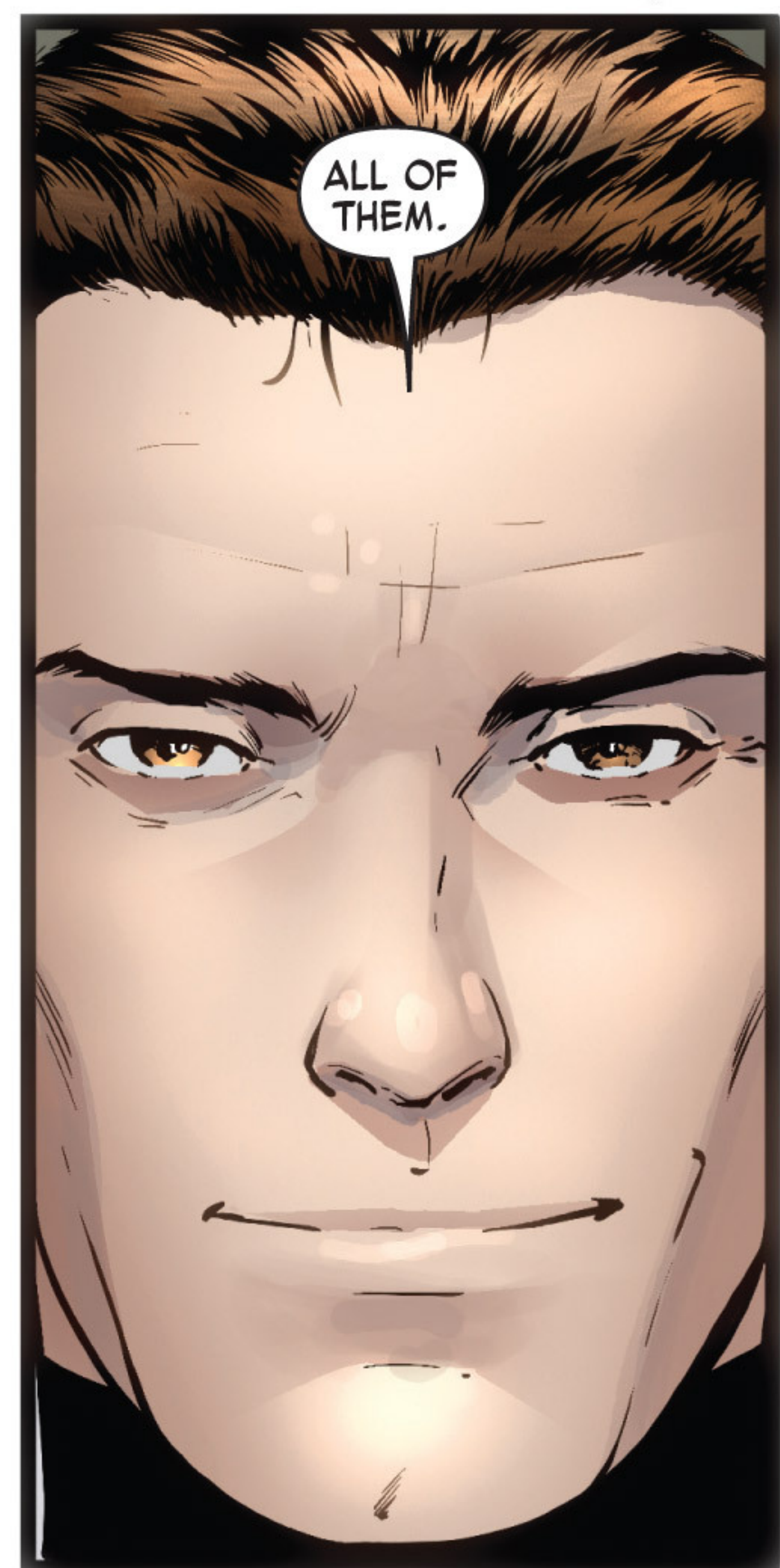
SOUTH SIDE. GOT IT.



WHAT DID YOU AND MOM DECIDE TO DO?

WELL, I DECIDED TO DO WHAT YOUR MOTHER SAID WE SHOULD HAVE DONE ALL ALONG... CALL OUR FRIENDS.

COOL. WHICH ONES?



ALL OF THEM.

SEE? *SEE?*
THIS IS EXACTLY
WHAT I'VE BEEN
TALKING
ABOUT...

WHO COULD
HAVE SEEN THIS
COMING? NOT YOU. NOT I.
HOW DO YOU ANTICIPATE
THE UNEXPECTED? ISN'T
THAT EXACTLY WHY IT
IS UNEXPECTED?

PERCEPTION! PERCEPTION
IS THE REAL X-FACTOR.
EVERYTHING IS FILTERED
THROUGH OUR EXPECTATIONS--
HOW OTHER AGENDAS ALIGN
WITH OUR OWN.

TWO PARABOLAS
APPROACH ONE ANOTHER,
ALMOST TOUCHING...THEIR
PATHS PARALLEL FOR A BRIEF
MOMENT BEFORE ROCKETING
OFF SOMEWHERE ELSE.
APART...*FOREVER.*

DON'T YOU
UNDERSTAND,
DIABLO? THEIR
PATHS NEVER
COMBINED...

THINKER,
WOULD YOU
PLEASE *SHUT*
UP?

NO! LISTEN...
LISTEN! THEY'RE
FIGHTING FOR THEIR
OWN SEPARATE
FUTURES.

"THE KREE AND THE INHUMANS WERE NEVER MEANT TO STAY UNITED."

SMASH!!

HURT...BUT JUST UNCONSCIOUS. THANK GOODNESS.

THAT WAS ALMOST TOO MUCH, MY LOVE.

FORGIVE ME, CRYSTAL, BUT THE BOY WOULD NOT GO DOWN...

AND TOO MUCH RESTS ON OUR PURPOSE SURVIVING DISCOVERY A BIT LONGER.

LORD RONAN, WE HAVE FOUND THE LOCATION OF THE TARGET...WE ARE **VERY** CLOSE.

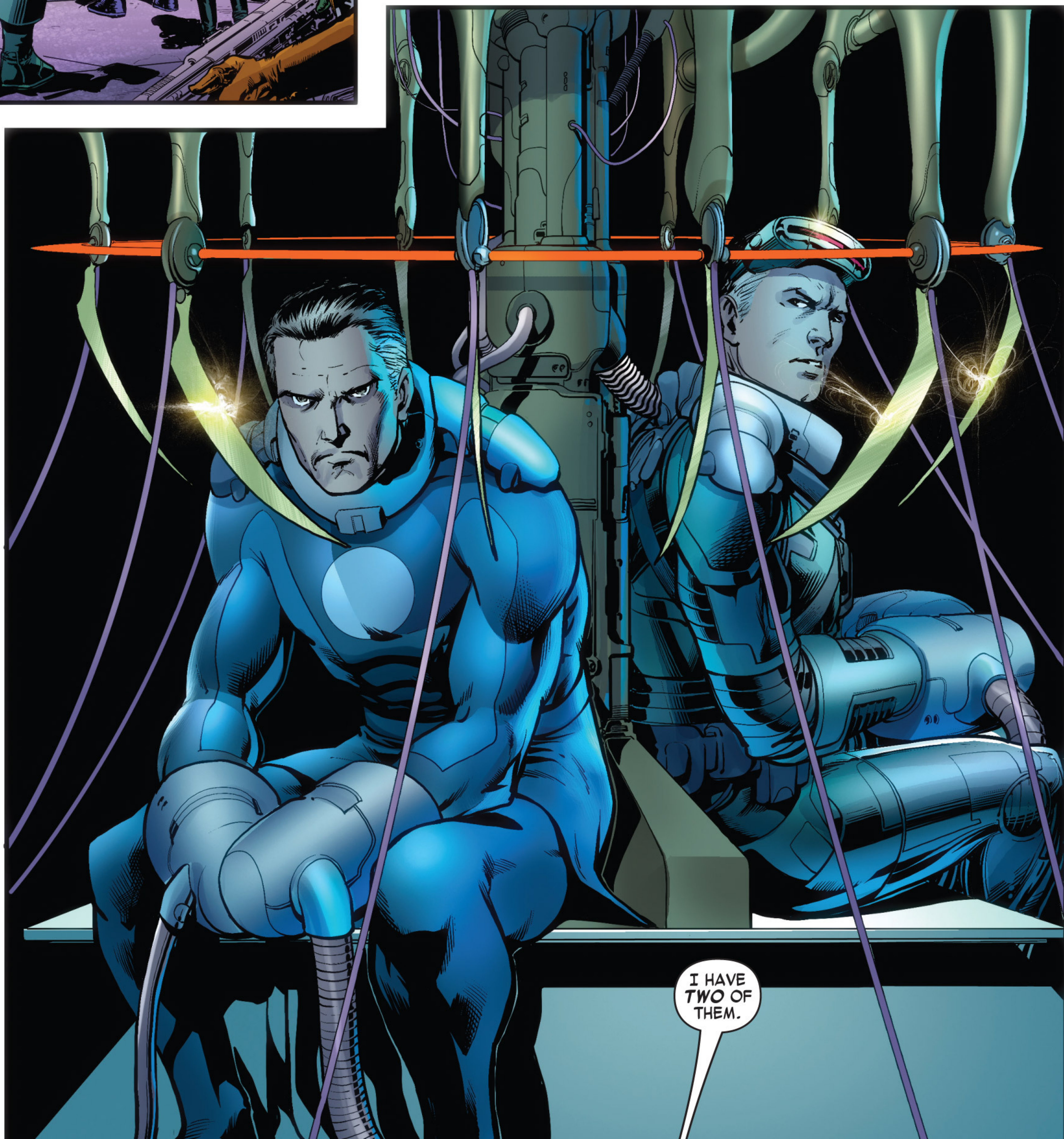
LEAD THE WAY, MAJOR. QUICKLY.

HUSBAND, I THINK NOW WOULD BE A GOOD TIME TO REVEAL THE FULL EXTENT OF YOUR PLAN...

EXACTLY HOW DO YOU PLAN TO RESTORE THE EMPIRE?

WHILE I HAVE ALWAYS KNOWN WHAT WAS NECESSARY, UNTIL YOU RECENTLY SPOKE TO YOUR SISTER, MEDUSA... I DID NOT KNOW EXACTLY HOW.

I WAS PREPARED TO DO...HORRIBLE, DISHONORABLE THINGS... BUT RECENT EVENTS HAVE PROVIDED US WITH A MORE ELEGANT SOLUTION.





**THE OTHER
SIDE OF ZERO.
THE CULT OF THE
NEGATIVE ZONE.**



I UNDERSTAND...
IT'S UNNATURAL.
THIS IS NOT HOW IT
NORMALLY IS.

THIS IS
NOT HOW IT
SHOULD
BE.

EVEN SO,
YOU MUST...
ENDURE.



WE CANNOT
HELP THE WORLD
WE ARE BORN
INTO...

WE CAN
ONLY WORK TO
MAKE IT INTO WHAT
WE WANT IT
TO BE.

TO THAT
END, I PROMISE
YOU WE WILL KILL EVERY
LIVING THING ON THIS
PLANET.



Hjssssssssssssss



OUR
MASTER CALLS
FOR YOU.

EXCELLENT.

LOOK,
ADVISOR...THEY
ARE BORN
HUNGRY.

I WANT
YOU TO FIND HOSTS
FOR THEM AMONG
THE BELIEVERS.

YES,
ANTI-PRIEST.



PROGRESSSSSSSS?

WE ARE
ALMOST READY,
MASTER.



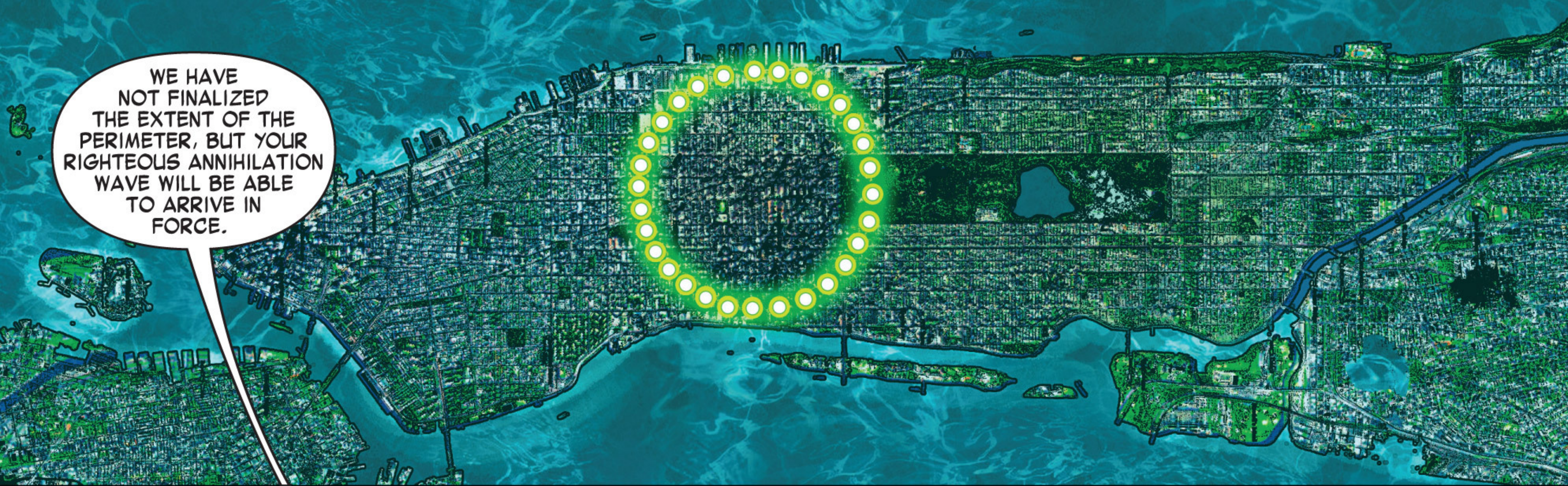
AT THE EXPENSE
OF THIS HIVE'S QUEEN,
WE HAVE HATCHED ONE
THOUSAND NEW DRONES,
THE LAST OF WHICH ARE
NOW BEING PLACED
IN HOSTS.



"WE HAVE ALSO COMPLETED THE
CONSTRUCTION OF THE AMPLIFYING
DEVICES--OBELISKS--THAT WILL
ENABLE US TO EXPAND THE BRIDGE
BETWEEN THIS WORLD AND THE
NEGATIVE ZONE.



"THEY HAVE BEEN HIDDEN
WITHIN CULT BUSINESS FRONTS
AND UPON ACTIVATION WILL
SYNC UP TO CREATE THE
BOUNDARY OF THE BRIDGE."

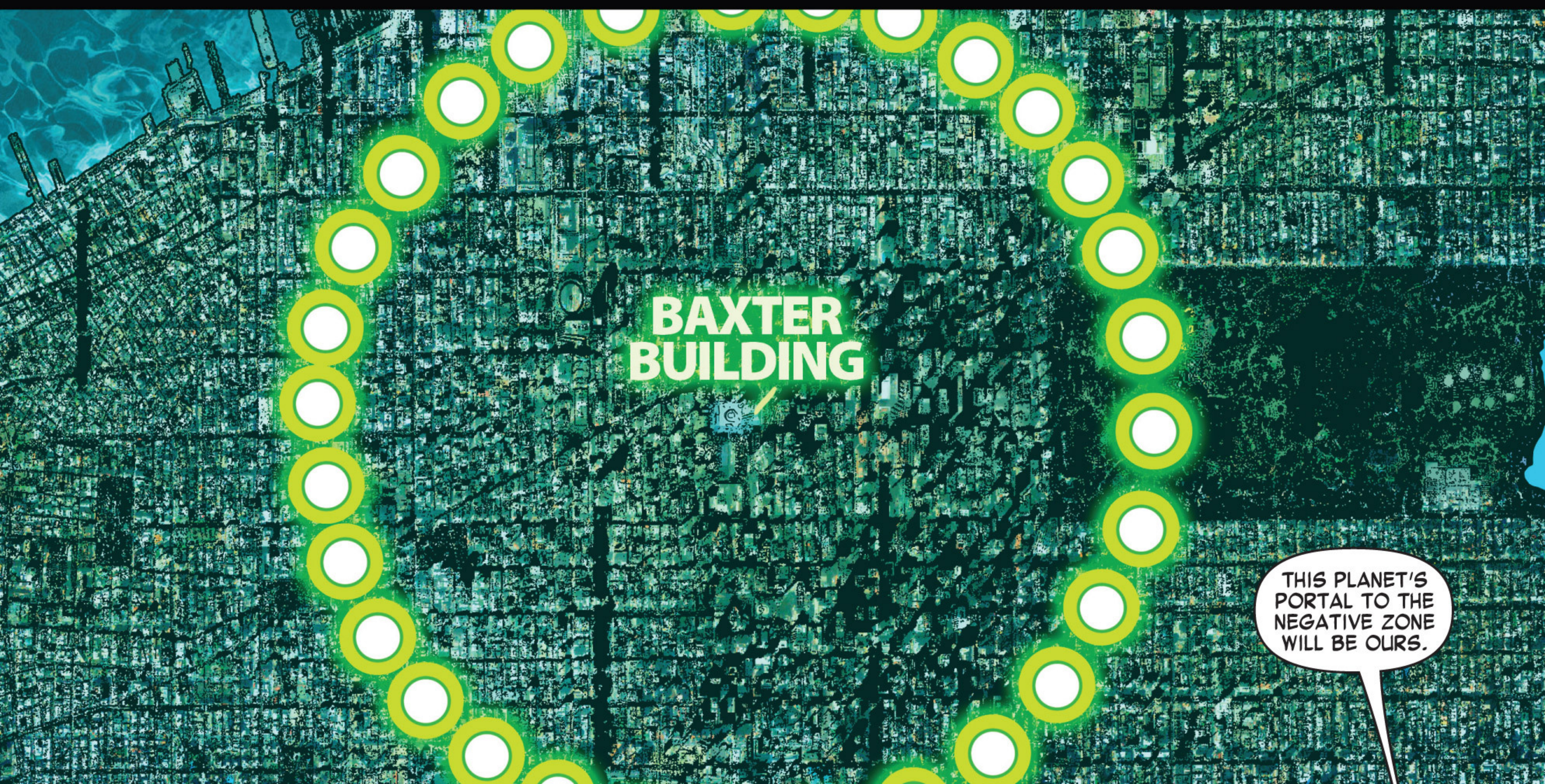


WE HAVE NOT FINALIZED THE EXTENT OF THE PERIMETER, BUT YOUR RIGHTEOUS ANNIHILATION WAVE WILL BE ABLE TO ARRIVE IN FORCE.



ANNNND THE CATALYSSSSST?

WE FAILED YOU ONCE.
WE WILL NOT AGAIN...



BAXTER BUILDING

THIS PLANET'S PORTAL TO THE NEGATIVE ZONE WILL BE OURS.

 THE BAXTER BUILDING.

...AND, AS YOU CAN SEE, BETWEEN THE VARIANT INHUMANS AND THE OTHER 'MES' FROM PARALLEL WORLDS, WE'LL BE FACING A UNIQUE SET OF CIRCUMSTANCES.



BUT BEFORE I GET INTO VARIOUS TACTICAL SCENARIOS AND VARIABLE POINTS OF VICTORY, THERE IS ONE OTHER THING I WANTED TO SAY...



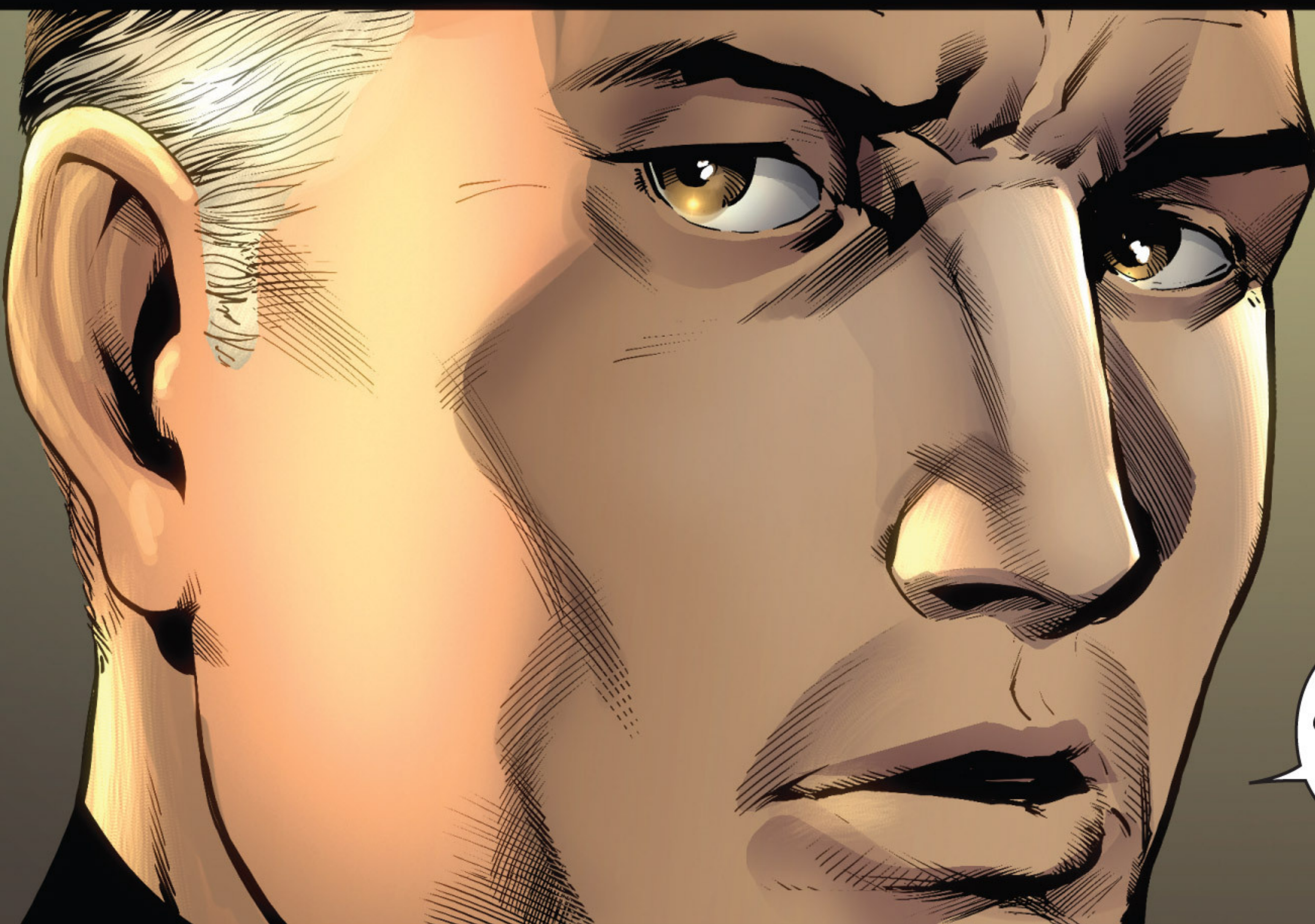
I AM SORRY.

I HAVE MADE DECISIONS THAT--REGARDLESS OF HOW PURE MY MOTIVATIONS MAY HAVE BEEN--HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO AFFECT ALL OF YOU. SIGNIFICANTLY.

TOO OFTEN I THINK THAT I CAN DO THESE THINGS ALONE. I SHOULD KNOW BETTER BY NOW.

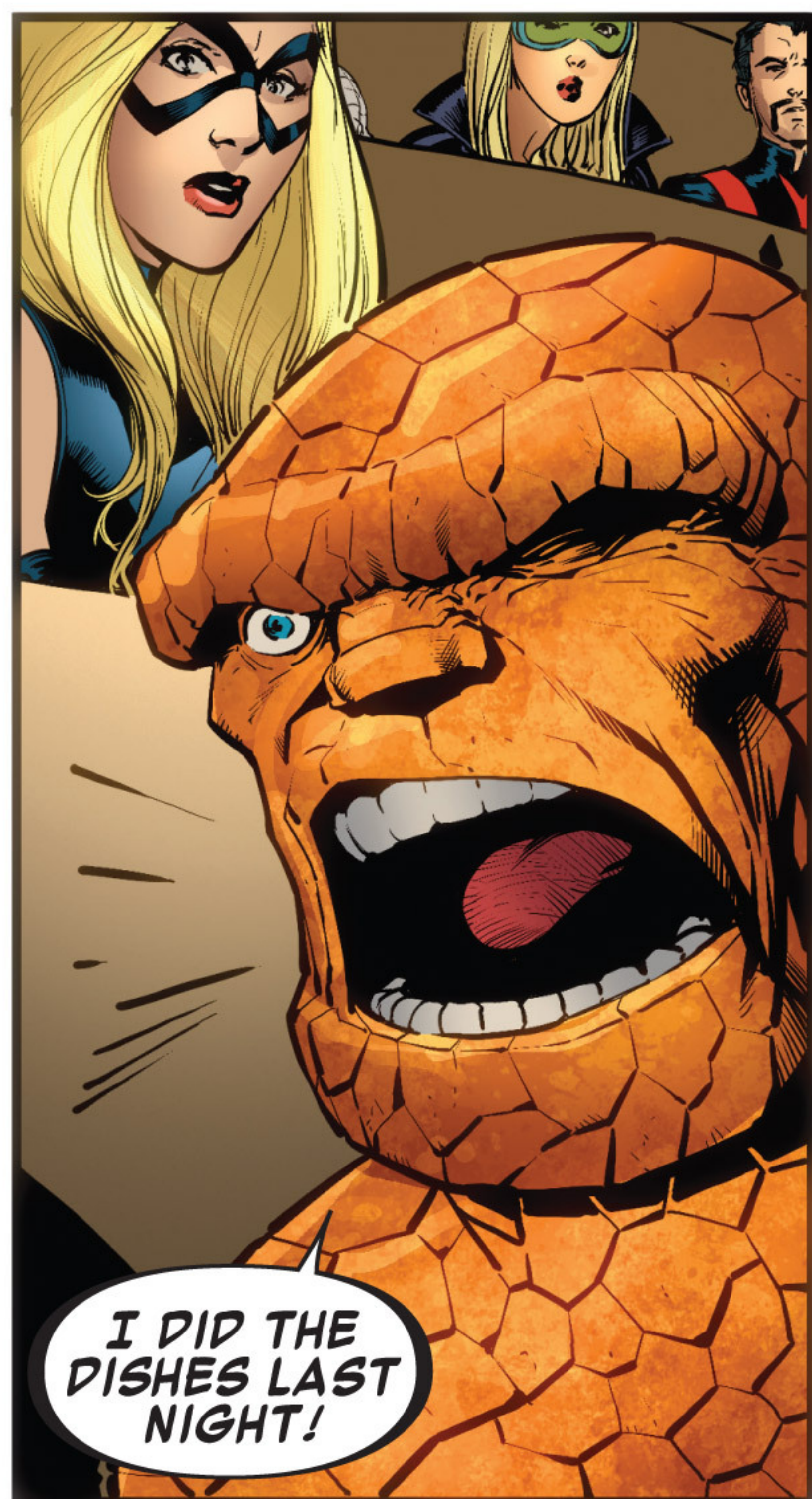


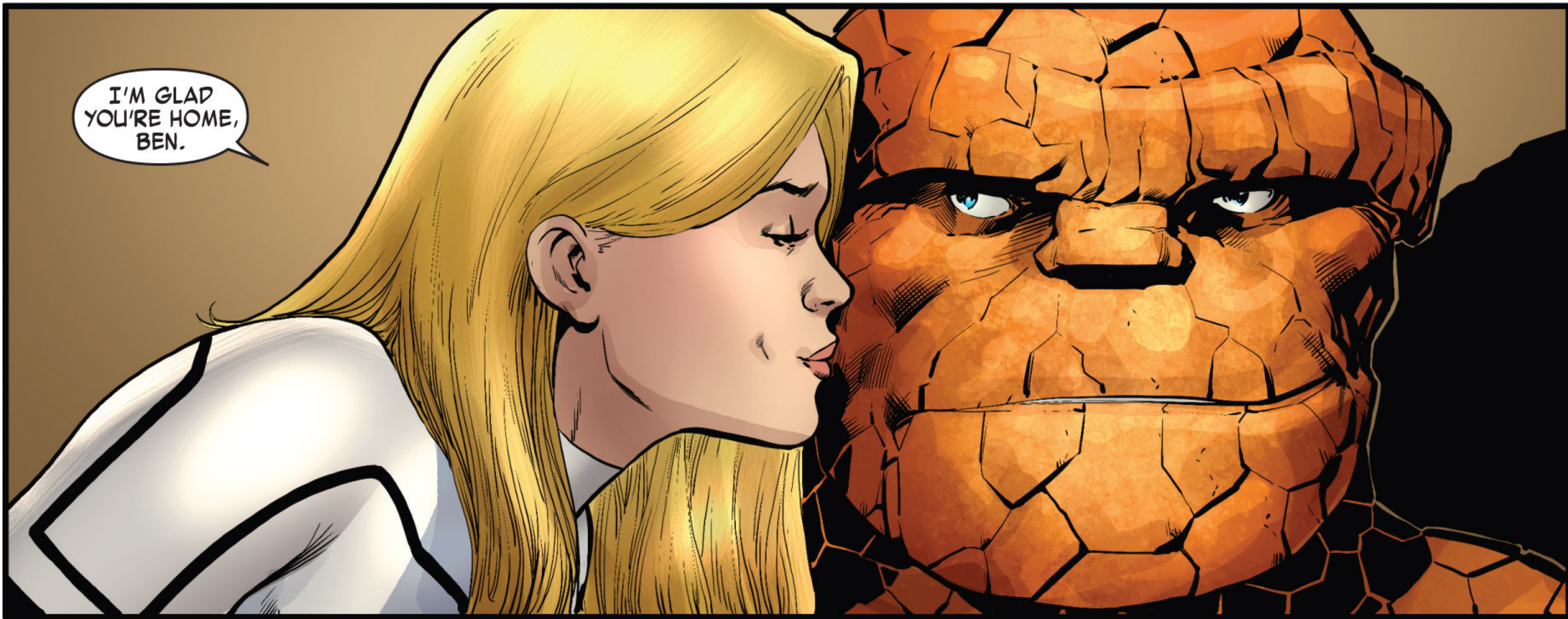
IT'S AN INSULT THAT I DID NOT CALL YOU FIRST.



KNOWING THAT, I WOULD HAVE UNDERSTOOD MANY OF YOU NOT ANSWERING MY CALL. THAT YOU DID ONLY UNDERSCORES WHAT I HAVE ALWAYS KNOWN...







I'M GLAD YOU'RE HOME, BEN.

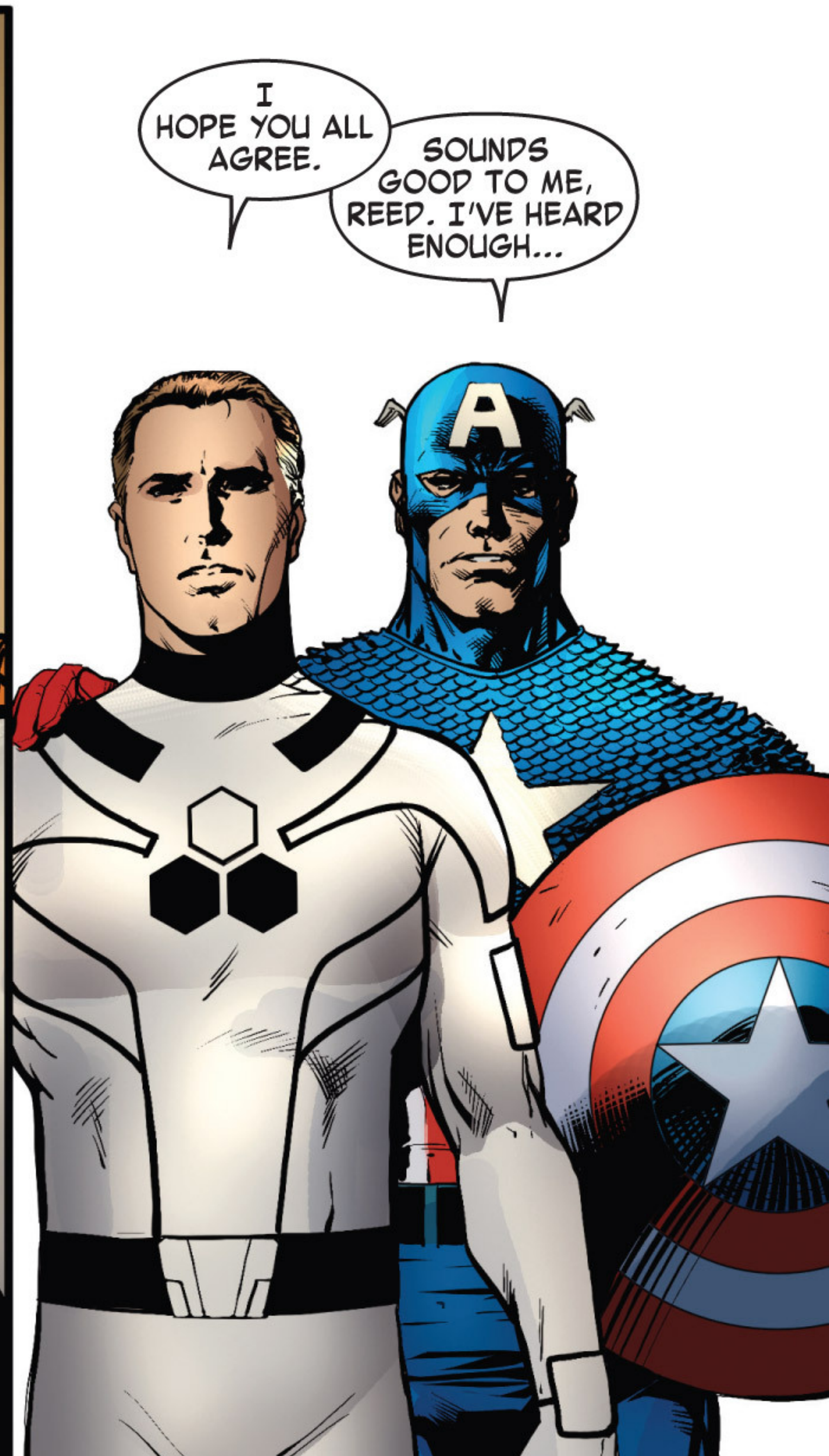


HEY! DO YOU THINK YOU COULD KEEP IT DOWN?

I CAN'T HEAR THE PART ABOUT HOW WE'RE ALL GOING TO GET KILLED.



...THE BEST WAY TO REACH OUR GOAL OF A SWIFT RESOLUTION WITH THE INHUMANS AND A DECISIVE CONCLUSION TO ALL THIS COUNCIL BUSINESS.



I HOPE YOU ALL AGREE.

SOUNDS GOOD TO ME, REED. I'VE HEARD ENOUGH...



ON YOUR FEET, PEOPLE...

WE LEAVE IN AN HOUR FOR ATTILAN.



THE FOREVER CITY. PROTECTORATE OF ATTILAN.



THE
ENGINE?

REIGNITED,
MY LORD.

THEN WE
BEGIN.

PLACE
THE ACCUSED
BEFORE ME.



I AM RONAN,
HUMANS OF THE
MULTIVERSE.

WELL, KNOW
THAT I DO NOT
RECOGNIZE THE
AUTHORITY OF A
DYING PEOPLE,
ARBITER...

AND WE
REEDS...HAVE NO
JURISDICTION.

HUMPH.

LOOK
AROUND. IT
APPEARS THAT
IS...UNTRUE.



YOU
ARE CHARGED
WITH CRIMES OF
ARROGANCE TOO
LONG TO
LIST.

THE
EVIDENCE IS
LEGION, AND YOUR
OWN WORDS HAVE
CONDEMNED
YOU.

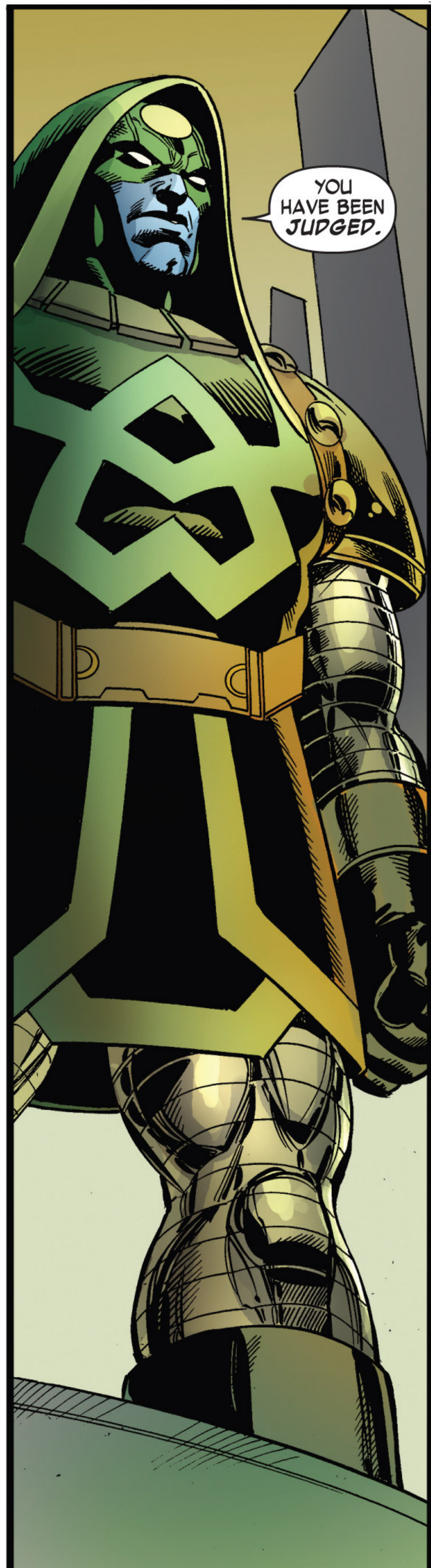
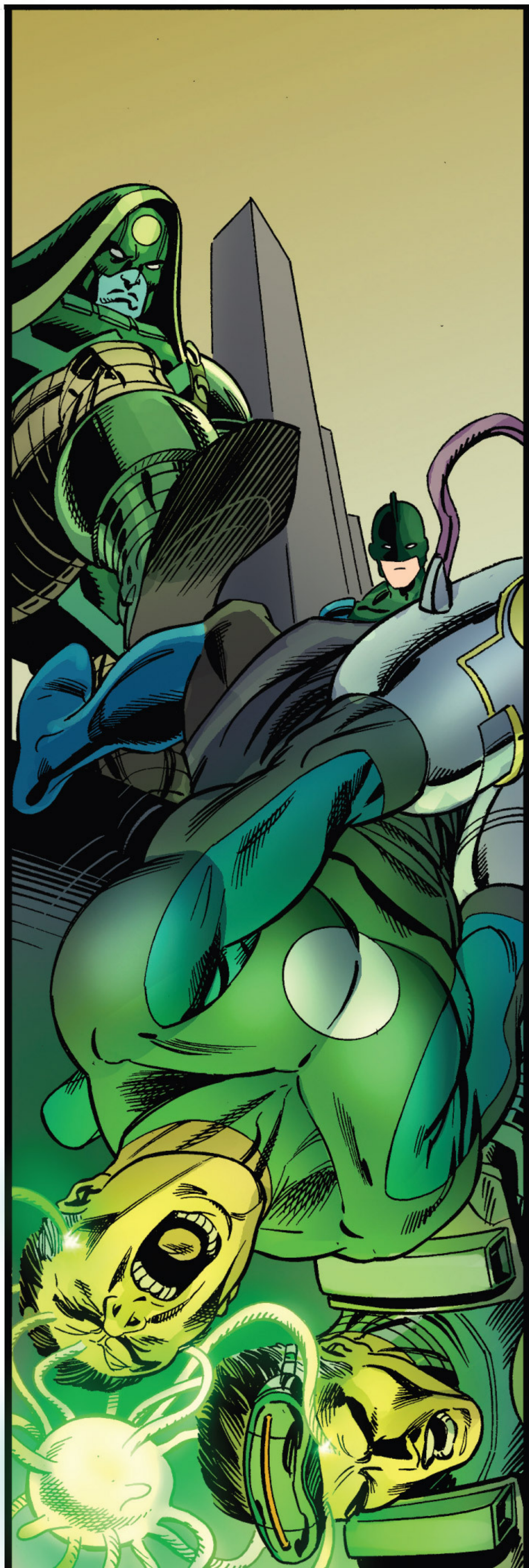
EVERY
MAN HAS AN
END...

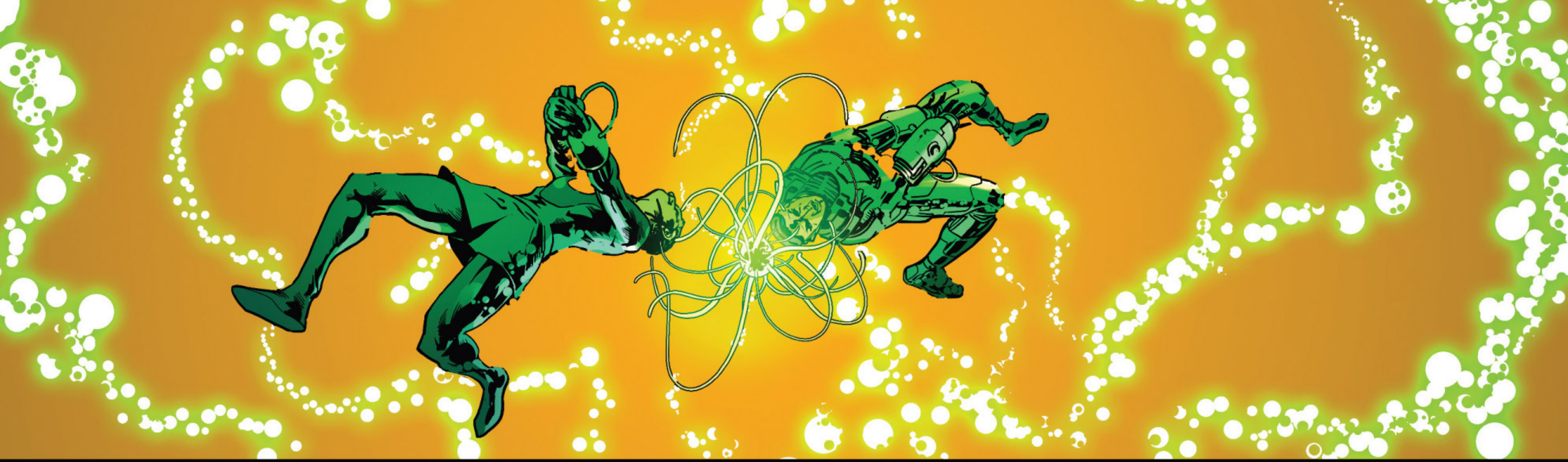


YOURS...WILL
MATTER.

NO!

Nooooooooo!









HOW LONG...

HOW LONG
HAVE I SLEPT...?
HOW LONG HAVE I
BEEN DORMANT?

THREE
HUNDRED
THOUSAND
YEARS.

THE SUPREMOR
SEED HELD,
INTELLIGENCE...



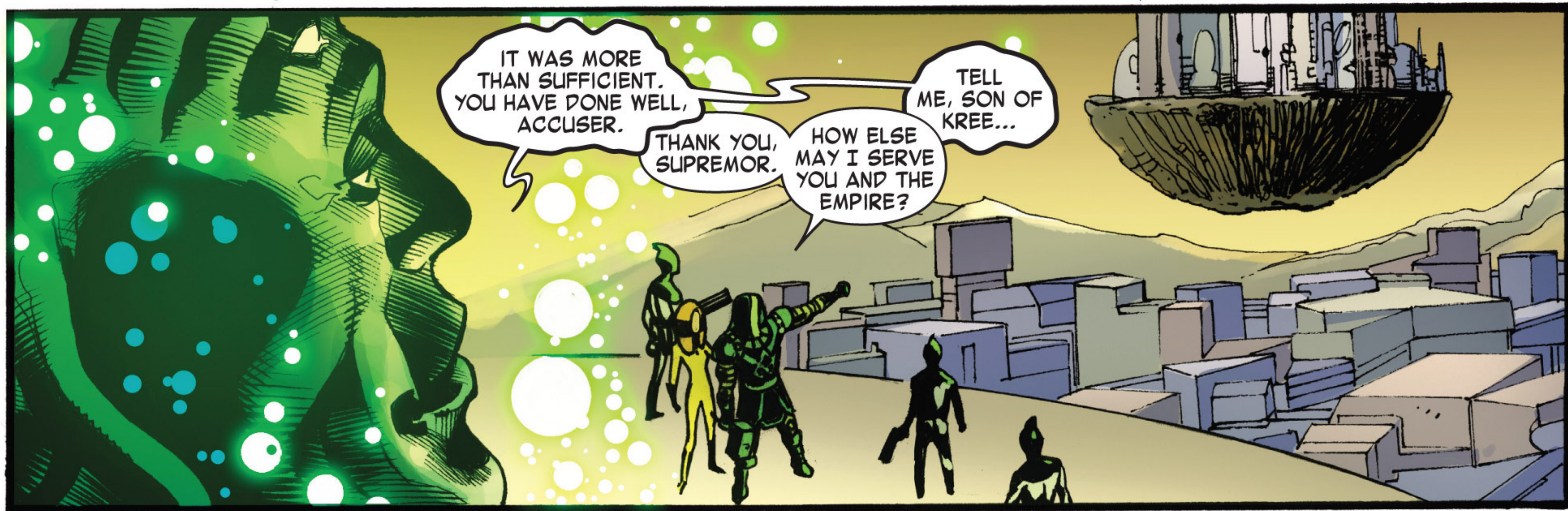
MY
CONSCIOUSNESS
IS EXPANDED...

THERE
ARE PARALLEL
REALITIES NOW
CONTAINED WITHIN
MY COLLECTIVE.



THE
REQUIREMENTS
FOR REGENERATION
WERE DEMANDING. I HAD
TO USE SOME...**EXOTIC**
MATERIAL AS A
CONTAINER.

I HAD
HOPED YOU
WOULD FIND IT
BENEFICIAL.



IT WAS MORE
THAN SUFFICIENT.
YOU HAVE DONE WELL,
ACCUSER.

THANK YOU,
SUPREMOR.

HOW ELSE
MAY I SERVE
YOU AND THE
EMPIRE?

TELL
ME, SON OF
KREE...

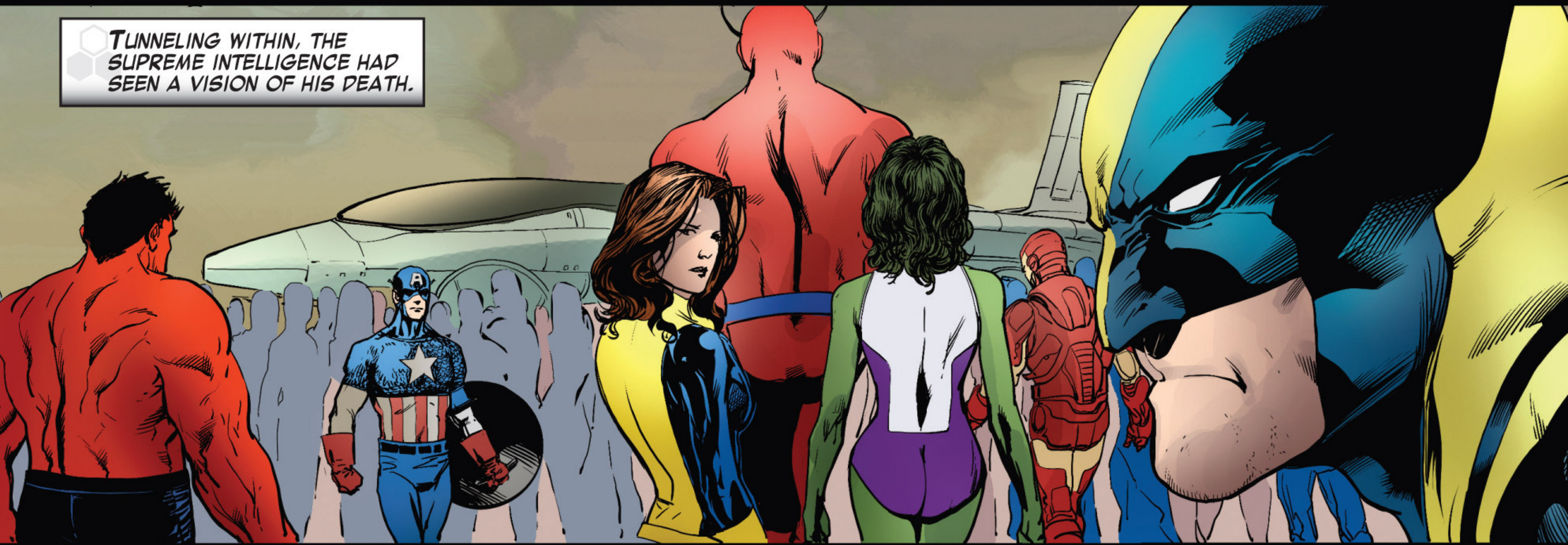


WHERE
ARE MY
ARMIES?

 THE BAXTER BUILDING.



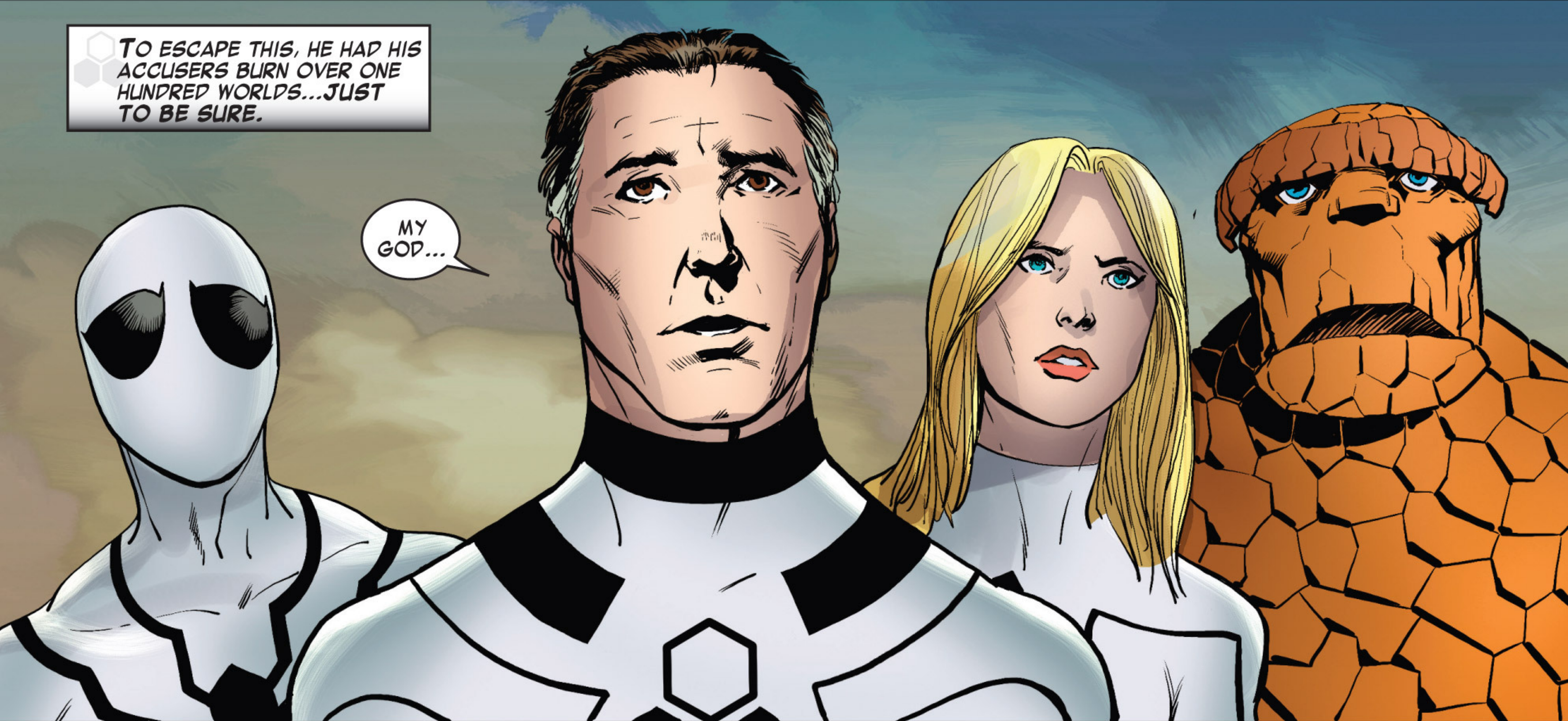
 TUNNELING WITHIN, THE SUPREME INTELLIGENCE HAD SEEN A VISION OF HIS DEATH.



 AN END OF HIS OWN MAKING.



 TO ESCAPE THIS, HE HAD HIS ACCUSERS BURN OVER ONE HUNDRED WORLDS...JUST TO BE SURE.





AND NOW, HE
WILL DO THE SAME
TO OURS.



NEXT: FANTASTIC FOUR!

50th ANNIVERSARY

600th ISSUE
104 PAGES
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